

THE TIMES

No. 66,272

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1998

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UN inspectors denied more time

Saddam goes for missile showdown

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A NEW confrontation between Iraq and the West appeared inevitable yesterday when Richard Butler, the United Nations chief weapons inspector, cut short a mission to Baghdad after talks on Iraqi disarmament collapsed in acrimony.

He will report to the UN Security Council tomorrow which must then decide how to respond to President Saddam Hussein's latest challenge to the UN.

Iraq rejected a proposal by Mr Butler to extend his work on missile and chemical weapons for another month. Instead Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, demanded he tell the UN Security Council that Iraq had come fully clean on its weapons of mass destruction so that eight years of crippling trade sanctions could be lifted immediately.

"I don't have sufficient evidence to do that report," Mr Butler said. His team insists Iraq is still hiding evidence, particularly on its chemical and biological weapons and the missiles to deliver them. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, said he hoped the breakdown of talks would prove to be only a hiccup. "I would hope that when Mr Butler comes back and reports, we will be able to continue our work and that this may be a major hiccup, but a hiccup that we can overcome, I hope," he said.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that Iraq's claim that the United Nations investigators were haggling over details was patently absurd. In the past two months the United Nations Special Commission (Unscow) had confirmed that, despite Iraqi denials, it had put deadly VX



Butler demanded time to complete mission

gas into missiles and uncovered evidence of 4,000 chemical weapons which had not been reported.

"We would like to see sanctions lifted as soon as possible. But progress depends entirely on the Iraqis," Mr Cook said.

Washington was caught off guard by the collapse of the Baghdad talks. The focus of the American capital has been President Clinton's travails over the Monica Lewinsky investigation. There was suspicion that Saddam may have provoked the latest showdown knowing that the American President was distracted by legal manoeuvres that could threaten his presidency.

Mr Butler said he would have been able to close the missile and chemical weapons files if Iraq had accepted his proposal to continue an "accelerated work programme" and co-operated fully over the next four or five weeks. But Iraq made clear that it had no faith in Mr Butler, whose team it accused of trying to prolong sanctions to serve American interests.

Mr Aziz described his proposal as "humile". He said there was no point in a new programme if the weapons inspectors were "going to repeat the same tricks". The Iraqi President convinced that Washington will never ease sanctions while he is in power, appears to have calculated that defiance rather than compliance is the best way to end the eight-year-old

embargo. If so, he is gambling that America has lost its will to go to war as a result of divisions within the Security Council and the inevitable Arab opposition.

It could well be more difficult to mount and sustain an operation similar to February's when America and Britain rushed forces to the Gulf to persuade Saddam to open his palaces to weapons inspectors. Washington was unable to persuade its allies in the region, such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey, to use their soil for strikes against Iraq.

Since then, hostility to sanctions has grown across much of the Arab world. They are seen to have caused widespread suffering among ordinary Iraqis while failing to make Saddam bow to the UN's demands. America's standing in the Middle East is also compromised by the failure of the Arab-Israeli peace talks and Washington's perceived reluctance to put pressure on the Israelis to make territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

Saddam, who has persistently tried to divide the Security Council, may now also sense some disagreement between America and Britain. London is uneasy with Washington's insistence on maintaining sanctions in place as long as Saddam remains in power, diplomats said. Britain is keen to keep to the letter of the Gulf War ceasefire resolutions, which allow for sanctions to be lifted once Unscow gives Iraq a clean bill of health.

But as Saddam embarked on a familiar pattern of brinkmanship, it was unclear whether Iraq would allow inspectors in the country to continue their work or end all co-operation with Unscow.

Saddam is unlikely to throw out weapons inspectors immediately, because that would alienate Russia, China and France, on whom Iraq relies for sympathy and support at the Security Council, diplomats said.

Simon Jenkins, page 16



Prince William, 6 ft 2 in, stoops to talk to his cousin Zara Phillips at yesterday's party for their great grandmother

Thousands hail Queen Mother

BY ALAN HAMILTON

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 98th birthday yesterday in front of a crowd which annually grows larger as the anniversary grows more remarkable. Dressed in pale lemon to match a rare burst of sunshine, the Queen Mother performed her customary walkabout among a crowd of several thousand which filled the narrow street in front of Clarence House and spilled down The Mall.

The numbers were considerably greater than last year for the informal event that has been a fixed point in the royal calendar for more than 20 years.

A testament to the success of two hip replacement operations, the Queen Mother walked for 25 minutes leaning lightly on a stick, completing her tour of the crowd in her customary golf buggy, which

was decorated with helium balloons and laden with cards and flowers pressed on her by the crowd.

Footmen and policemen had to gather the overload at intervals during the 50-minute progress to the corner of The Mall and back. Hundreds lining The Mall were disappointed that the royal buggy did not venture into the main road to greet them.

The Queen Mother looked relaxed and well as she smiled and waved at the crowd. The band of the Welsh Guards played *Happy Birthday* and a new birthday tribute composed by two loyal fans, Geoffrey and Gladys Wood, who dreamt it up while humming and marching round their kitchen.

As in previous years, a group of red-coated toastmasters presented the Queen Mother with a Nebuchadnezzar of champagne, the equivalent of 20 bottles. She took a

token sip and the rest was distributed among the crowd.

At noon a 41-gun salute fired by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, sounded from Hyde Park. Another of 62 guns was fired by the Honourable Artillery Company at the Tower of London.

Queen Elizabeth posed at the Clarence House gate with her birthday lunch guests: her daughters the Queen and Princess Margaret, her grandsons the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, and her great-grandchildren Princes William and Harry, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, and Zara Phillips, who was rumoured to have had her tongue pierced with a decorative stud but who kept her mouth discreetly closed.

Watchers were more struck by the 12-inch height discrepancy between Prince William and his great-grandmother; the 16-year old Prince now stands 6 ft 2 in, while the



A smiling 98 yesterday

Queen Mother only just attains 5 ft 2 in.

The birthday traditionally marks the beginning of the Royal Family's summer holiday. While the Queen heads for Balmoral, the Queen Mother this week travels to her private home at the Castle of Mey on the Caithness coast.

Inspired moment, page 8

Top firms demand action on BBC's Watchdog

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

NINE large companies are demanding a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman of the BBC's Board of Governors, to discuss their grievances over *Watchdog*, the corporation's flagship consumer affairs programme.

The firms, Ford, Dixons and Airtours among them, claim they have suffered as a result of wrong or misleading programmes. They also claim that improper methods were used to conduct investigations. The Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC) has upheld 12 of the 20 complaints against *Watchdog* in four years, four since April.

After a two-hour meeting in London, instigated by Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford, the companies agreed a "constructive course of action", that includes asking Sir Christopher for closer scrutiny of the BBC's programme.

The firms are also unhappy about the BSC's limited powers to obtain quick on-air retractions and apologies and their own lack of opportunity to complain before programmes are broadcast.

Anne Morrison, the BBC's head of features and events, stood by *Watchdog*'s standards. "These problems come with the territory," she said. "It is an area of journalism which is bound to come with complaints. Every word we say comes under intense scrutiny."

The BSC has upheld four complaints by Dixons and one each by Ford and Airtours. Ford said *Watchdog* claimed there was a design fault in the steering of its Mondeo model that caused the car to drift to the left. The commission upheld the complaint in part, saying it was unfair to suggest that the fault affected all Mondeos. Dixons complained of infringement of privacy after the programme filmed secretly in some of its stores.

Anita McErlane, director of communications for Airtours, said: "We believe there is a place in the market for serious investigative journalism and a proper consumer affairs programme. But we don't believe that *Watchdog* is fulfilling that brief."

Other companies represented were the AA, Thomson Holidays, BT, Hoppoint and Procter & Gamble. British Airways withdrew and is believed to be taking up its case separately.

Hyundai rescue, page 21

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Earth is a pretty average place

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THERE is absolutely nothing special about our corner of the universe, astronomers have discovered. It is average in every particular.

This deflating conclusion, based on images taken by the Hubble space telescope, finally lays to rest the belief that human beings have a special place in the cosmos. A team led by Dr Simon Goodwin of the University of Sussex says that where we live is the cosmological equivalent of Swindon. It is normal; it is mediocre; it is dull, dull, dull.

The ancients believed that the Earth lay at the centre of the universe, with the Sun orbiting around it — a misapprehension corrected by Co-

pernicus and Galileo. Today astronomers believe in the "principle of terrestrial mediocrity", for which Dr Goodwin and colleagues have found new and persuasive evidence.

The last traces of pre-Copernican cosmology lingered on in the feeling that even if the Earth, Sun, and solar system were unremarkable, at least they formed part of an unusual galaxy, much larger than those surrounding it. It was hard to prove, since it is not easy to work out how big the Milky Way is, or how far away the neighbouring galaxies are. And if you do not know how far away they are, you cannot estimate their size.

Dr Goodwin's team has

now made such a calculation, tracking the pulsations of stars that are known to emit light of a certain brightness, which means, they report in the journal *Observatory*, that they can calculate the distances, and hence the sizes, of 17 galaxies, chosen because they are the same spiral shape as the Milky Way.

The average size of these galaxies is 92,000 light years across. And the Milky Way is believed to be 87,000 light years across, which puts it squarely in the middle.

"We live in an average galaxy in all respects," admits Dr Martin Hendry of the University of Glasgow, a co-author. Other astronomers

think it may be premature to relegate the Milky Way. Dr Sidney van den Bergh of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Victoria, British Columbia, says that dust obscures our view of the other side of the Milky Way, which may be 30 per cent greater than we think.

On the other hand, it could be 30 per cent smaller, which would make it even less remarkable. The only consolation is that if life has evolved in such an unexcitingly typical galaxy as the Milky Way, it has probably evolved in plenty of other dull places, too. One day we may meet such people and exchange photographs of the local Arndale Centre.



"Oh look Dad — what's that?"

Summer arrives

The temperature reached 77F (25C) in London and it should touch 86F (30C) in the South by the weekend. The North will be unsettled, with showers in Scotland. Page 20

US computer firm in talks to save chip plant

By FRASER NELSON

INTEL, the giant US computer chip company, is in talks to rescue Hyundai's abandoned £2 billion semiconductor factory in Scotland.

The talks come less than a week after Siemens closed its chip factory in Tyneside with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

Intel and Hyundai are considering making an advanced memory chip that will be used by a new generation of home computers expected to be marketed in two years' time. A deal could lead to the transfer of production of Pentium chips at Intel's plant in Ireland to Scotland.

If the talks succeed, it could

mean 2,000 jobs in the blighted Rosyth area where many former Navy personnel had been retrained to take jobs with Hyundai. But the company had to mothball the factory when its native South Korean economy collapsed.

Scottish Office agencies have offered their full assistance if the two companies come to an agreement. On-site preparations for the deserted factory have already cost £80 million, and nearby colleges had invested in courses to teach a workforce microchip technology.

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Cook accused of turf wars with Short

Nicholas Watt on a blow to the Foreign Secretary's efforts to rebuild his reputation

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, was yesterday rebuked by an all-party committee of MPs for fighting turf wars with Clare Short, the International Development Secretary. Weeks after being criticised for failing to read his official papers properly, Mr Cook was accused of allowing "unnecessary tensions" to develop with Ms Short over the volcano crisis in Montserrat.

Mr Cook faced the indignity of being criticised by the Intelligence Services Commissioner for failing to read a warrant properly that led to an unlawful surveillance operation. In the latest rebuke to the Foreign Secretary, the Commons committee blamed him personally for allowing turf wars to develop between the Foreign Office and Ms Short's Department for International Development. In the wake of the volcano crisis last summer, Mr Cook merged the four departments within the Foreign Office which oversee

colonies such as Montserrat. The MPs on the committee said that Mr Cook's reforms had created confusion and tension because they gave him political control over the colonies while leaving the Department for International Development (DFID) in charge of funding. Bowen Wells, the Tory chairman of the Commons committee, said: "The problem is the reluctance of the Foreign Office to give up their political control over the territories. This should go to DFID because the territories are a development prob-

lem. It has proved hopeless leaving the territories to both departments." Labour members of the committee also criticised Mr Cook and Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister who was put in charge of the Overseas Territories. Dennis Canavan said: "We were very dissatisfied with the government response and the obvious lack of co-ordination. We have not been impressed at all by Baroness Symons."

Gary Streeter, the Shadow International Development Secretary, remarked: "This report shows we cannot tell who is in charge in the Department for International Development. Is it Robin Cook or Clare Short who will take responsibility for the Montserrat shambles?" The volcano on Montserrat erupted in 1995, destroying large parts of the island. It rumbled on until a massive explosion last June which killed 19 people. In August last year Britain organised a partial voluntary evacuation, offering £2,500 to each adult to help islanders move. In their report, the MPs censured

the Government for failing to provide adequate support on the ground for Montserratians. They were dismayed that the Government had refused to underwrite insurance payments to islanders who lost out because the volcano was classified as a natural event. The Foreign Office and International Development Department both denied there had been lack of co-ordination between their departments. A spokeswoman for the latter said that it and the Foreign Office had "made great strides in streamlining and improving the management of assistance to the Montserratians".

Gay issue threatens to split Anglican Church

By RUTH GLENDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PROSPECTS of a damaging split in the Anglican communion moved closer last night after the debate on homosexuality threatened to overshadow all other issues and divide the communion in two. Evangelicals said they were "angry and suspicious" after a carefully worded conservative resolution upholding biblical values on homosexuality was at the last minute replaced by one that took a more liberal line.

There were allegations of "dirty tricks" and suspicion of foul play. Conservatives are considering lodging a formal protest with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, over the issue.

Bishops gave warning of an "unravelling" of the Anglican Church, and of inevitable schism if the conference failed to uphold a traditional, biblical line on homosexuality that the Africans and others are demanding.

The stage is set for one of the fiercest debates in the Anglican Church this afternoon on the issue, which is proving a far more serious threat to Anglican unity than women priests.

Battle lines are now clearly drawn between African, Asian and conservative Western

African bishops won the blessing of the Lambeth Conference yesterday in their attempt to convert their Muslim neighbours. The conference was told that aggressive proselytism should be avoided when Christians talked to people of any other religion. But, after an intervention by the Right Rev Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Bishop of Kaduna, Nigeria, the conference backed active evangelism.

bishops on the one side, and Western liberals on the other. Homosexual lobby groups are expected to turn out in force to lobby the conference.

A hint of the strength of feeling came last night as bishops crossed swords in an angry dispute over which resolution should go before the conference today.

Bishops at the conference, meeting at Kent University, Canterbury, said the motion on human sexuality put before the conference on Monday was submitted without a vote or agreement of the section that has spent two weeks examining the issue.

This motion mentions upholding "faithfulness in marriage between one man and one woman" and condemns homophobia. But African evangelicals, traditionalists and conservatives throughout the Church are incensed that the motion, which they say was agreed without their consent or a vote, does not mention homosexuality.

As a result, members of the section on sexuality yesterday submitted a second resolution to replace the first, which takes a strongly conservative line and was voted on and agreed by members of the section.

This resolution, presented yesterday morning at the daily press briefing as the new official motion, recommended "chastity" for those not called to marriage. It also condemned homophobia.

But in a concession to conservatives, the motion advised against "the legitimising or blessing or ordaining of those involved in same gender unions".

Families unmoved by threat of bomb

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A GROUP of families in the East End of London defied advice to evacuate their homes yesterday while the Army defused a 50 kg Second World War bomb because they had never heard of the Blitz.

The Bengalis remained inside their homes in Tower Hamlets despite appeals for them to leave by police and interpreters.

The bomb was finally defused yesterday afternoon, 24 hours after it had been discovered by workmen, and the residents who had cooperated were allowed back to their homes.

Chief Inspector Paul Cnlow, of Whitechapel police, said: "We did all we could but we can't force people to leave their homes. We advised them it was safer to leave and officers knocking on their doors all night encouraged them to go. If it had exploded it could have damaged buildings and caused serious injury or even killed."

More than 1,000 people left their homes and spent the night with relatives. About 200 stayed in emergency shelters in the nearby Swanley and St Paul's Schools, which had been opened overnight by the council.

But a handful of families on the Ocean Estate refused to leave despite loudspeaker warnings, leaflets through their letterboxes and repeated appeals by interpreters.



Captain Sean Matten with the nose cone of the bomb he defused yesterday

Nuclear fuel from Dounreay was used to make A-bombs

A GOVERNMENT minister has admitted for the first time that nuclear material produced at the Dounreay atomic research facility in Scotland has been used to make bombs. A statement by Margaret Beckett in her final days as President of the Board of Trade before her appointment as Leader of the Commons has overturned the official position which had remained unchanged since the 1950s. It follows the admission in June that 375lb of highly enriched uranium could not be accounted for at Dounreay in the 1960s.

In April, Tony Blair announced that highly enriched uranium from the former Soviet republic of Georgia was to be sent for reprocessing at Dounreay. However, the work cannot be carried out because the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate closed down the plant for safety reasons.

The admission of Dounreay's secret link to Britain's nuclear weapons programme came after an audit of the records, which uncovered documented transfers from Dounreay for military purposes. Since the late 1950s, the official position has been that Dounreay has never been used to produce weapons-grade uranium and plutonium for Britain's nuclear bomb programme. Nuclear fuel for warheads designed at the Atomic Weapons Establish-

ment at Aldermaston in Berkshire was supposed to have been produced exclusively from a reactor at Sellafield. As recently as June 3, Tony Blair told the Commons: "I can confirm that no such material has ever been sent from Dounreay for use for UK weapons purposes."

However, in a Commons written answer on July 27, published in *Hansard*, Mrs Beckett admitted that prior to 1973 nuclear material was diverted from Dounreay to Aldermaston, although the Calthness research facility stopped making weapons-grade fuel after 1973.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that the Prime Minister was referring specifically to the "missing" 375lb of highly enriched uranium. The spokesman said it was in that context that Mr Blair had told the Commons that none of the material at

Dounreay had been used to make weapons. Mr Blair had said: "There is absolutely no evidence whatever to back up the suggestions that any material has been stolen (from the Dounreay nuclear plant) or fallen into terrorist or foreign government hands. No such material has ever been sent from Dounreay for use for UK weapons purposes."

However, in her written answer to a question, from John McWilliam, Labour MP for Blaydon, Mrs Beckett said that before 1973 "it is probable that some of the material transferred from Dounreay to Aldermaston would have been used in the UK weapons programme".

The DTI spokesman said the new discovery about Dounreay's past had been made after an audit by the department's office at the department. Since 1973, nuclear material at Dounreay and other British atomic sites has been subject to oversight by the European Euratom Safeguards Directorate.

Yesterday Lorraine Mann, of Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, said: "It is gratifying to see the truth come out at long last. We have long suspected that nuclear material from Dounreay was being diverted to make atom and hydrogen bombs." She called for all documents to be made available to the public.

Slump in student nurses threatens Dobson plans

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of nurses in training is falling rapidly, undermining government plans to increase the number of nurses in hospitals. The number of student nurses has dropped 15 per cent in four years and there are fewer applicants for training than there are places available.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, announced after the Comprehensive Spending Review last month that some of the extra money for the NHS would be used to recruit 15,000 more nurses and to open training places for another 6,000.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said yesterday: "We're already facing the worst crisis in nurse shortages for 25 years so a fall in the number of students in training should set alarm bells ringing."

"Government must act and invest in nursing to make it an attractive profession which rewards nurses properly in terms of pay, career development and working conditions." "The Government has a

serious problem and they don't have any hard answers. The one quick fix would be to increase pay but that is what they are baulking at. Pay is not the only thing that matters but it would be a signal that the Government is serious and without that I don't believe it is going to meet any of its targets."

Figures from the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, which administers nursing courses, show there were 45,589 nurses in training at the end of March. This was down 8,185 on 1994. The decline appears to be accelerating with a 2,447 drop last year, despite a £2.5 million recruitment drive by the Government.

The NHS Executive admitted yesterday that it would be difficult to fill the extra training places announced by Mr Dobson by 2002, as planned. A publicity campaign, a 2.75 per cent increase in student bursaries and a guarantee that nursing degrees would be paid in full are being used to try to attract recruits.

Rita le Var, assistant chief executive of the English National Board, said she did not know where the recruits would come from. "Who will fill these places when we already have a shortage of applicants?" she said in the *Nursing Standard*.

The work of cervical screening laboratories is being hit by a lack of staff and low morale, according to the Manufacturing Science Finance union which represents most technicians.

A union survey found that 76 per cent of pathology departments had experienced recruitment problems in the past year and 65 per cent predicted the situation would get worse.

The union blamed much of the recruitment problem on poor pay. The starting salary for a qualified cytology screener, who looks for abnormalities in smear test samples, is £9,626. The survey covered 178 NHS trusts.

Mr Dobson said that the union's claims did a disservice to the hard work and dedication of the staff.

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Portadown may get a peace wall

By AUDREY MAGER, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering building a peace wall on Garvagh Road in Portadown to keep Roman Catholics and Protestants apart.

The Northern Ireland Office said yesterday that it had received a number of requests from politicians and Assembly members in the town to divide the community along religious lines.

The proposed wall, which would be the first to be built outside Belfast, would run across Park Road at the bottom of Garvagh Road and divide the 50 Protestant families from thousands of Roman Catholics.

The request, understood to come from Protestants, is indicative of the hatred and

mistrust in Portadown following the stand-off at Drumcree over the right of Orangemen to walk down Garvagh Road.

Pastor Kenny McClinton, a Protestant community leader and spokesman for the terrorist Loyalist Volunteer Force, backed the idea of the peace line. He said: "People need to feel safe in their homes. Everybody knows the negative aspects of a peace line but unfortunately it is a necessity for the area."

The proposal has enraged Roman Catholics. Brendan McKenna, spokesman for the Garvagh Road residents, said it was ridiculous that Protestants felt they needed protecting in a town that was only 30 per cent Catholic.

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Woman executive dismissed 'for putting baby first'



Sacked: Louise Neal

A WOMAN executive told an industrial tribunal yesterday that she was sacked for refusing to travel all over Europe because of the effect it would have on her relationship with her newborn baby.

A new position heading development of Tangent's European operation. Mrs Neal, 30, of Chelmsford, Essex, turned the offer down because she would be separated from her 10-week-old daughter, Lucy, for long periods of time. She claims that she was unfairly dismissed and suffered sexual discrimination.

change in her job, except by arrangement. However, she returned to work to find her position had been given to her deputy in her absence. Mrs Neal told the hearing that as account manager for IBM NB — the Dutch branch of the computer firm — she was used to travelling frequently to Holland but that this did not impact significantly on her home life.

ling," she said. "There would be longer flights and more overnight stays, which would have an unfortunate impact on my relationship with my daughter. If I did not have a child none of this would be an issue."

right time to have the child — in my existing job I knew what the hours were and I could organise a nanny to come in and look after my child. If I took on the new role I would have to look for some other form of child care."

Pregnant officer was put into 'risky' jail post

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON officials moved a pregnant officer to a job that had been judged a risk for an expectant mother and her unborn child, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Michelle Edwards was transferred to the main gate lodge at Pentonville jail, against her wishes, when she became pregnant with her second child.

Graham Storer, head of management services at the North London jail, admitted that, when the job had been assessed by a senior manager, it was found that there was "a real risk" to expectant mothers and their children.

Mr Storer told an industrial tribunal in Central London: "Passive smoking was a real risk to mother and child, there were no toilet facilities, the keys were heavy and the position of the security camera control panel was unsuitable. However, I considered the post to be ideal if these minor problems were dealt with."

When Mrs Edwards had morning sickness she had to use a bucket because there was not a women's lavatory near by.

Mrs Edwards, 34, from Islington, has accused the Prison Service of sexual discrimination for making her move to a job with unsuitable conditions while pregnant.

Mr Storer told the tribunal that some prison officers had felt that Mrs Edwards had been given special treatment. They believed that a post at the gate lodge was a status symbol reserved for long-service staff.

Lisa Lambert, a female colleague, said: "I heard men talking about pregnant women being treated better than men by being allowed to work in the gate."

Earlier the tribunal was told that Mrs Edwards, who earned £23,000, had reluctantly been moved from working directly with prisoners for safety reasons. "A job in security would be unsuitable because of a negative attitude from staff about having pregnant workers in this section," Mr Storer said.

Businessman is jailed for sex attack on girl, 16

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BUSINESSMAN known for his charitable fundraising was put on the national register of sex offenders and jailed for two months yesterday for indecently assaulting a 16-year-old waitress during a New Year's Eve party.

John Holmes, 42, a father of three girls, regularly appeared in glossy society magazines and helped cancer charities, the NSPCC and a hospital in Manchester. A freemason, he was also a member of Altrincham Chamber of Commerce and the exclusive Mere Golf and Country Club (annual membership fee £2,300).

Holmes was a respected member of the so-called Cheshire Set around his home in Halebarns, Manchester, where his neighbours include the Middlesbrough FC manager Bryan Robson and Betty Driver, the Coronation Street actress. But for the next seven

years the property dealer's name will appear on a list of sex offenders including paedophiles such as Robert Oliver, the killer of the schoolboy Jason Swift, and rapists such as John Blott, the former policeman.

On his release Holmes will have to notify police of his address and if he moves he must report to a police station near his new home. If the police consider him a risk to the public they can draw up an action plan, including warning his victim that he is free.

Yesterday at Warrington Crown Court Holmes gaped with shock and Christine, his wife of 18 years, broke down as Judge David Hale told him: "It is with great regret that I have to send someone who has a wife and loving family to prison but you did something very wrong that night and you know it." Holmes had denied

assaulting the teenager on the roof of a Knutsford restaurant on December 31 last year after he and Ben Silk, a business colleague, took her for a breath of air. His friend had kissed the girl before Holmes fondled her.

The judge said: "I accept that this incident was out of character. I don't think it was planned or that you gave any thought about what was to happen. Your friend kissed her and for some reason you joined in, but you went further before coming to your senses."

Holmes, whose sister Marie is the wife of Colin Bell, the former England and Manchester City footballer, regularly featured in *Cheshire Life* magazine and was pictured at his 40th birthday party with one of his friends, the former Liverpool council deputy leader Derek Hatton.

At his trial last month at Mold Crown Court, the jury was told both men flirted with the girl. "It was clearly a very frightening and unpleasant incident," Rhys Rowlands said for the prosecution. The girl gave evidence by video link.

Holmes said he had gone with Silk to give the waitress a cigarette and was surprised to see them kissing. She came towards him and he put his arms on her shoulder, gave her a peck on the cheek and wished her a happy new year. He suggested the girl had made up the allegations because she was worried her



Holmes, a father of three girls, gaped in shock and his wife, Christine, broke down when he was sentenced yesterday



Holmes's house in the so-called Cheshire Set area

Girl stung 70 times by wasps after her puppy disturbs nest

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A GIRL aged 4 and her puppy were recovering yesterday after they were attacked by wasps. Sophie Cousins was stung more than 70 times by the insects, believed to be particularly aggressive median wasps, and doctors told her parents that she was lucky to be alive.

The attack happened as Sophie, her three-month-old puppy Basil and her brother Bob, 11, played hide-and-seek in the back garden of her family's home in Weston-super-Mare. The puppy disturbed a wasp's nest and within seconds they were attacked by hundreds of angry insects.

Sophie was stung on her arms, legs, front and back. Doctors said she may have been saved by the fact that she was stung only from the neck down. Bob dragged her away from the nest and was stung 30 times and Jon, 15, their elder brother, removed Sophie's clothing. Sophie was taken to Weston General Hospital where she was given painkillers and anti-histamines to reduce swelling.

Basil was completely covered in wasps that stung him into unconsciousness. He was rushed to a vet and put on a drip.

Sophie's mother, Sandra, 44, said: "It was horrific, like a scene from a horror film."

These wasps were bigger than any I've ever seen. Her brothers were so brave and quick-thinking and things could have been so much worse. They probably saved her life.

"It's not the sort of thing you expect to happen in your back garden. Sophie was absolutely covered in wasps. They were caught up in her clothes and just kept stinging

her. We were just so lucky that they didn't sting her on the throat or face which could have been fatal.

"The wasps were bigger than any I've ever seen and they were so aggressive. It was awful, her arms and legs were covered and she was like a little Michelin man when they swelled up.

"She's still scratching now

but she's back playing in the garden, because I don't want her to have any fears."

Mrs Cousins called in pest control officers but the wasps had gone and their nest had been destroyed by her husband. Experts have been unable to confirm the species but believe they may have been median wasps, nicknamed the Eurowasp after they spread from the Continent nearly 20 years ago.

Celia Davis, of the British Beekeepers Association, said: "These European wasps are bigger than our wasps and have nests out in the open. They originally came from Europe and were first seen in this country in 1980. They have been able to survive in this country because of the mild winters."

Spencer Jacobs, a North Somerset Council pest control expert, said that the Eurowasp was becoming increasingly common in the area.

He said: "Wasp nests are an annual phenomenon and there are a lot around at the moment. Midsummer is my busiest time — I'm dealing with six to eight nests a day at the moment."

"They become very aggressive if disturbed. I would advise the public to give any nest a wide berth and call a pest controller."



Sandra Cousins with Sophie and her puppy Basil

Allergic reaction is greatest danger

WHETHER stung by bees or wasps, be they good old-fashioned English wasps or the altogether more sinister Euro-wasps, the problems are much the same.

The one important difference is that the bee tends to leave behind its barbed sting and sac. This should be scraped off with a blade or even a sharp fingernail, as extracting the sting and sac with a pair of tweezers can squeeze the contents into the skin.

The damage done by the stings is dependent on three factors. The number of stings has a bearing, but the toxins released are unlikely to be lethal in the released amount unless he or she is stung at least 200 times. Obviously, a four-year-old would be able to withstand a proportionately smaller amount of venom.

The point of the body where the patient is stung is important. If the sting is in the mouth, the immediate reactive swelling may cause some trouble: the best advice is to suck ice. However, the real danger is that of allergy to the sting. It is a myth that people are not allergic to wasps, only to bees: both may produce an allergy and then it is immaterial where the sting is located.

The result of the allergy may be that the tissues around the mouth and throat swell dangerously and cause breathing problems. Even more worryingly, the patient can go into anaphylactic shock and suffer cardio-respiratory collapse.

The sting sites should be washed in clean, soapy water; antihistamine cream can be applied and antihistamine tablets, mixtures or steroid tablets taken by mouth, which is much more efficient. In

the event of severe stinging without allergy, antihistamines or corticosteroids can be given by injection. It is absolutely essential that, if there is an appreciable allergic reaction, adrenaline is given. A solution of one in a thousand is given by subcutaneous injection. Corticosteroid injections are not considered adequate treatment in cases of severe allergy-induced shock. Animals can be treated in the same way as human beings.

A final word of warning: picnic clothes should be chosen with care as wasps are not only attracted by jam but by scents and brightly coloured clothes.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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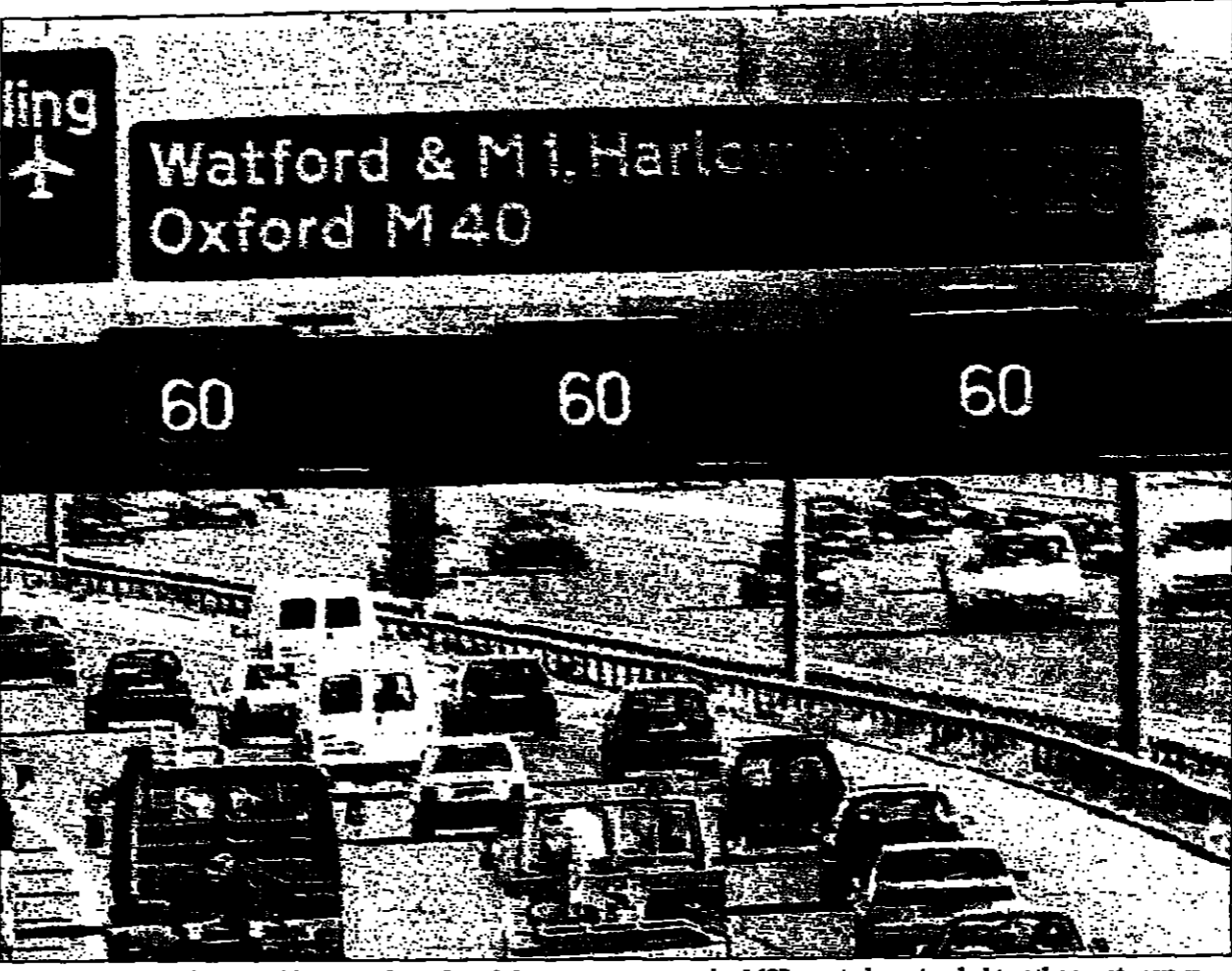
Less speed, more haste is road agency's pledge

Variable limits and high-tech traffic monitoring are the latest weapons against congestion, writes Nick Nuttall

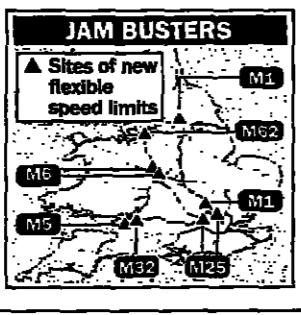
RADICAL plans to ease congestion on the roads through an extension of variable speed limits and computerised traffic monitoring were announced yesterday. The Highways Agency has drawn up a series of initiatives to improve traffic flows through an integrated approach to transport management. The emphasis on better planning and technology follows the Government's decision to reduce roadbuilding on environmental grounds. The agency said it would make maintenance a top priority, with £300 million more to spend in the three years to March 2002; promote integration of the network with other forms of transport; improve services to users and encourage cycling and walking routes; use the latest technology to improve information for drivers; manage traffic demands, including priority for buses, coaches and lorries; and deliver the £1.4 billion road improvements programme, which was last week reduced to 37 schemes. The decision to extend variable speed limits, which require drivers to cut their speed on congested stretches, follows

their successful introduction on the M25 three years ago. The scheme uses overhead gantry signs between junctions ten and 15. Lawrie Haynes, the Highways Agency's chief executive, said yesterday that the M25 pilot scheme had smoothed traffic flows, reduced the phenomenon of "stop-start" and cut accidents by 28 per cent. The signs, which are triggered by sensors that monitor traffic flows, have also led to 15 per cent more drivers using the nearside lane. The agency said there had been a drop in exhaust pollution and much smoother traffic flows. Mr Haynes said that around 8 per cent of the motorway network was congested and the agency planned

to extend the signs, which set speeds of as low as 40mph, to these areas. They include stretches of the M6 around Birmingham where it links with the M54 and M5; parts of the M5 south of Bristol; the M4 where it ends in West London; other stretches of the M25; parts of the M1 north of London; the A34 at Newbury and motorways around Manchester and Leeds. The agency also plans to allow the hard shoulder to become a crawler lane for heavy goods vehicles on the M25 within two years. Sites earmarked are between junctions 16 and 19 and east of junction 27. Regional control centres may also be set up to improve the range and quality of information available to drivers about problems ahead. At the moment information on the roads is gathered and sent to 32 police control rooms. The new centres would gather and collate all the information so that, on a long journey, drivers could check for problems by telephone, computer or car radio. Mr Haynes said the agency was working with railway companies to encourage driv-



Variable speed limits, which were introduced three years ago on the M25, are to be extended to other motorways.



ers off the road. One project, with Great Eastern Railways, uses door-to-door leaflets and radio and press advertisements to entice motorists off the A12 between Chelmsford in Essex and London. A spokesman said yesterday that the number of weekly rail season tickets had increased by 31 per cent - more than 400 - in July compared to the same month last year. Schemes are also being devised to test new technology which in the future may

enable cars to travel down the motorways in computer-controlled "platoons". The term refers to a system whereby vehicles, using onboard collision avoidance sensors, would be guided along roads by a central computer. An information-gathering scheme is set to launch next year. The agency, in collaboration with firms such as Jaguar and GEC and universities such as Southampton, is building 80 electronic beacons between Swansea and Heath-

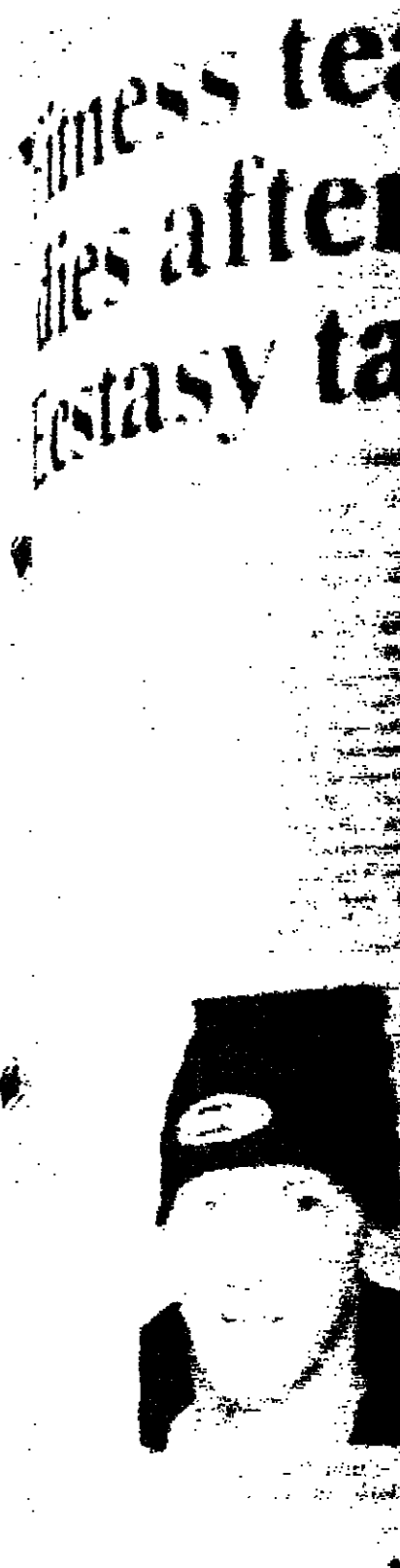
row on the M4 and Gatwick on the M25. Several cars, which will travel the route, are being fitted out with sensors that will detect braking, the use of windscreen wipers and journey times. The information will be beamed to a central computer which will pass it on to cars back down the motorway network. It is hoped that the information will aid drivers to monitor weather conditions and congestion, enabling them to use

other routes if necessary. Lord Whitty, the Roads Minister, said the agency had a vital role in delivering the Government's plans in its Transport White Paper. "The Agency has dropped its old image of being a roadbuilder, as the strategic road network is largely complete," he said. "From now on it will become a network operator by more actively managing roads and ensuring motorways and trunk roads work more closely with other transport systems."

Country anthem takes on the Spice Girls

By PAUL WILKINSON

THERE is a new name in Britpop and it could elbow aside the Spice Girls and Oasis on its way to the top. Supporters of the Countryside Alliance say that if their new campaign song, *Guardians of the Land*, is bought by a third of the people who joined their march on London last spring it will shoot straight to number one. Yesterday, in an introduction as bizarre as anything the pop industry could dream up, horsemen in hunting pink, game fishermen and falconers descended on urban Manchester to promote the latest in country music. Gathered among the concrete supports beneath the Mancunian Way, they launched into a straggling rendition of the song and its B-side, *Listen to Us*, sung to the tune of *John Peel*, about the plight of British farmers and blood sport supporters. The recording by the Pedigree, a Hereford pub band, will be released on Monday. The song's creator, George Bowyer, son of Lord Denham, the former Tory Chief Whip in the Lords, and fellow-campaigner Vini Faal said they chose to launch the song in Manchester because of the city's reputation for tolerance. Mr Faal, chairman of the Sharston Terrier and Lurcher Club, said: "We are the indigenous minority, the rural community. "We have already demonstrated the support for our cause by attracting between 300,000 and 400,000 people to London. We managed to get 236,000 of those people on our mailing list and we are encouraging them to buy the record. "A lot of people think hunting is all about toffs on horseback and that it's just for the country set, but it isn't. There are thousands of people who love their field sports. You don't have to live in the country to be part of it. It's how you think, not who you are." Mr Bowyer, 33, an agricultural insurance broker from Buckinghamshire, sang the song to an intrigued audience of racegoers at Glorious Goodwood last week - and serenaded Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, with it within 24 hours of his appointment.



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Sterile cowpats endanger bats

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

STERILE cowpats are threatening the survival of one of Britain's most endangered species of bat, it is claimed. The pats no longer contain the rich supply of dung beetles and other insects that are an important source of food for the greater horseshoe bat, according to *Bat News*, the newsletter of the Bat Conservation Trust. Conservationists believe that modern treatments for worms in cattle are to blame for the change, rendering the pats sterile for up to 120 days. A vital component of the bat's diet is one species of dung beetle, *Aphodius rufipes*, which favours fresh pats. As many as one hundred beetle larvae, providing many meals for infant bats when they hatch and fly, can be found developing in a single pat. David Appleton, working on behalf of the environmental



Greater horseshoe bat

group English Nature, recently toured farms in the West Country close to the maternal roosts of bats trying to persuade farmers not to use wormers based on the avermectin group of chemicals - which are believed to be causing the damage. Mr Appleton told *Bat News*: "If the cattle have been treated with certain wormers their dung will be sterile to the larval stages of the dung beetle. The female dung beetles can lay their eggs on it but the young die." It is estimated that there are only about 4,000 greater horseshoe bats left in Britain, mainly in the West Country.

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Fitness teacher dies after two Ecstasy tablets

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGE fitness instructor died in hospital yesterday, three days after taking Ecstasy at a friend's birthday celebration.

Julia Dawes, 18, had been in a coma at Perth Royal Infirmary since Sunday morning, when her parents found her unconscious in bed. She is believed to have taken two Ecstasy tablets at a nightclub on Saturday while celebrating a friend's 24th birthday.

Her parents, Alan and Jacqueline, took the decision to switch off her life-support machine after doctors reported no sign of brain activity. Her boyfriend, Mark Reilly, 21, a member of the British ski team, was with Mr and Mrs Dawes at her bedside when she died at about 3pm.

Last night her parents and brother Jonathan, 16, who are Jehovah's Witnesses, were said to be feeling "deeply grieved".

Miss Dawes, a part-time fitness instructor at her parents' health club in Perth, told friends that she felt fine when she left them on Saturday night. They had been drinking and had visited the Ice Factory nightclub. She is believed to have fallen ill shortly after arriving at her home on the outskirts of Perth.

Mr Reilly was not with his girlfriend on Saturday. The couple met at a party in Edinburgh four months ago and were said to have discussed marriage.

Mr and Mrs Dawes, who maintained a vigil at Julia's bedside, yesterday expressed their gratitude to hospital staff. In a statement, they said: "We want to thank everyone who looked after Julia during her final hours. We have experienced a breadth and depth of human compassion from doctors, nurses and ambulance staff, more than we could have wished for."

His daughter had recently completed a diploma course in business studies at Perth College. She was spending the summer helping at the £600 a year Hanover Health and Fitness Club, which was opened four years ago by the athlete Lindford Christie.

The club's manager, Donald Goldsmith, said staff were devastated. "Our thoughts are with the family at this extremely difficult time," he said.

Tayside Police said yesterday that four people have been arrested and charged in connection with Miss Dawes' death. They will appear at Perth Sheriff Court later.

Ecstasy has become so common in Perth in the past 18 months that dealers have been forced to cut their prices. A tablet can be bought for £10.

One nightclub doorman said: "We know it's getting sold in our club, but there's nothing you can do. We carry out searches but it's easy enough to hide something small like a bag of pills."

"We know some of the 'faces' who are dealing but if we send them away they just go somewhere else."

William Spence, the Chief Constable of Tayside, said in his annual report that drugs offences had risen by about 25 per cent.



Reilly at girlfriend's bedside when she died



Julia Dawes: parents made the decision to turn off her life-support machine

£1m drug plot 'washed up by the tide'

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE "forces of nature" foiled a plot to smuggle heroin and cocaine with a street value of more than £1 million into Britain, a court was told yesterday.

The drugs were supposed to be recovered from the water after being thrown from a cross-Channel ferry but they were washed up on beaches and discovered by members of the public.

Bournemouth Crown Court was told that Stuart Philpott, Richard Lopez and Wayne Wright attached locator beacons to rucksacks containing the drugs but failed to take account of tides and currents.

covered the next day. It was alleged that Mr Wright then dumped the drugs on two round-trips but that Mr Philpott, an expert diver, and his colleagues failed to find the two rucksacks.

They had intended recovering the rucksacks from the bottom of Poole harbour by diving from an inflatable boat. Nigel Lickley, for the prosecution, said the scheme had been "an ingenious attempt at importing drugs ultimately foiled by the forces of nature".

The rucksacks were discovered miles apart on the Arne Peninsula, west of Poole, and at Southbourne, east of Poole. Michael Nixon, a lorry driver, discovered a green bag containing heroin as he walked on Southbourne beach but he took a week to report his find to police because he feared that he would be implicated.

The court was told that Mr Lopez bought from a diving shop a transmitter and beacons that could be detected from a distance of up to 750ft and a depth of 600ft.

Mr Nixon said: "I looked inside and saw ten packages wrapped in polythene. Later, at home, I opened up one of the packages and found a large tablet of what I thought was heroin."

In January, Mr Lickley said, the three men embarked on a dummy run. Mr Wright sailed to Cherbourg and returned to Poole on the first return boat two hours later. The package was re-

Mr Nixon said he had taken a sample of the substance to a friend in Southampton to confirm its identity. "As soon as he saw it he said, 'That is smack, get it out of my house', so I flushed it down his toilet."

Mr Nixon said, the friend contacted police on Mr Nixon's behalf.

Mr Lopez, 27, and Mr Wright, 32, from Bournemouth, and Mr Philpott, 33, from Poole, deny illegally importing 3kg of cocaine and 2.7kg of heroin. The trial continues.

Missing art found in gallery

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE grand-daughter of an elderly doctor who lost two valuable Lowry paintings to "bullying" art dealers nearly fainted when she rediscovered the lost works, a jury was told yesterday.

The valuable pictures, which were on sale in an art gallery, are alleged to have been stolen from Percy Thompson-Hancock, 94, a former doctor.

Southwark Crown Court has been told that the dealers plucked the pictures from the wall, despite his protests that

they were not for sale, and left him £16,400. The court heard that the pictures were later exhibited on sale at Richard Green's Bond Street premises for more than £300,000 for the pair. The pictures, *Children on a Promenade* and *Family of Three* were painted by Lowry in the 1960s.

The dealers, Michael Openshaw, 51, of Hillbrow, Hove, Sussex, and Robert Barrett, 54, of East Drive, Hove, deny theft in November 1996.

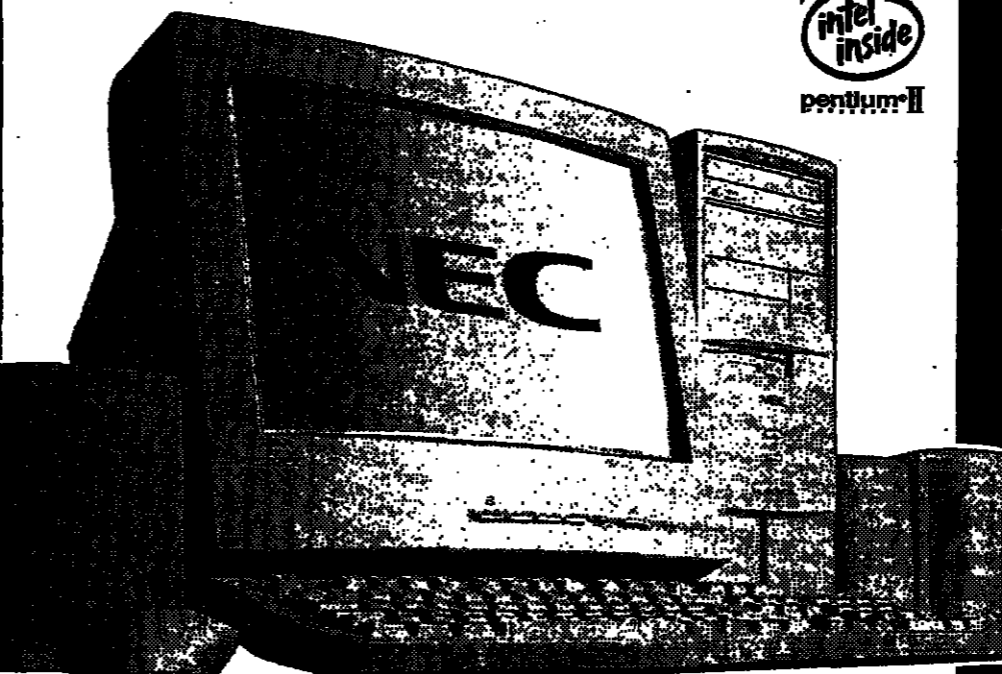
Judith Brew, Dr Thomp-

son-Hancock's daughter, denied that the family contacted the police only after they realised the price for which the paintings were on sale. "The value of the pictures was of no interest to me whatsoever... it was entirely sentimental and family," she said. "I was just trying to get the pictures back."

She said that, when she rang the defendants to retrieve the paintings, she was told that they had gone abroad.

The trial continues.

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Activists destroy crop in war on modified foods

By NICK NUTTALL AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A FIELD of experimental maize has been destroyed by protesters opposed to genetically modified crops. Twelve people were held by police on Monday night after reports that the crop at Hood Barton Farm, near Dartington, Devon, was being attacked with a spray.

The genetically modified forage maize, which was the subject of a legal action by a neighbouring farmer recently,

was being cultivated by the National Institute of Agricultural Botany on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture. An institute spokesman said first indications were that all the crop had been destroyed. Three women and nine men, aged 20 to 41, were arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage or conspiracy to cause criminal damage.

A statement from an organisation calling itself the Genetic Engineering Network later claimed that 30 "concerned citizens" had been involved in the "direct action" to prevent pollination of the genetically engineered crop. The statement said the site had been "the focus of much local opposition due to fears for the environment".

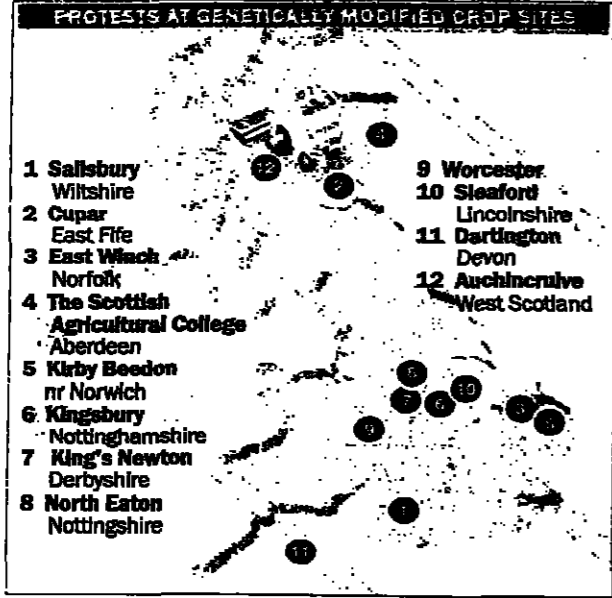
The site was also attacked last week by an organisation called South West Ethical Consumers Group, but it picked the wrong crop. Two weeks ago a neighbouring organic farmer, Guy Watson, lost his legal battle to stop the maize trials. He feared that his sweetcorn crop would be contaminated by cross-pollination, but the Court of Appeal ruled that no action could be taken because it had not been proved that the experimental crop was causing harm.

Mr Watson said yesterday that he regretted but understood the attack on the maize. "It is unfortunate and I wish that it hadn't come to this, but there are countless precedents through history."

John MacLeod, director of the institute, said: "What happened was unfortunate and even irresponsible. We exist to offer as much data as possible on how such crops would



Snowballing campaign: a protest against genetically modified crops at an Oxfordshire farm last month



behave. It is only by such experiments that we can learn the values and dangers of genetically modified crops."

Mr MacLeod said that, although the trials cost only £5,000 to implement, the destruction would carry a much higher price. "We must remember that it took five years of research and development just to get to the stage of having a trial harvest. In all, we are looking at about £600,000."

Monday's action appears to be the latest in a protest campaign in England and Scotland by groups formed from a loose coalition of "eco-warriors" and concerned residents. An estimated 147 local groups have formed this summer to fight genetically modified crops without violence, including the Warden's of Wiltshire and the Kenilworth Croppers. They are linked by telephone and Internet by groups including Genetix Snowball.

The destruction is said to be costing seed companies hundreds of thousands of pounds in lost research and possible future profits. The locations of seed trials are available from the biotechnology unit of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions whose Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment approves such tests.

Roger Turner, of the British Society of Plant Breeders, said about 40 sites had been targeted by protesters. Six of these contained crops that were not genetically engineered.

Zoe Elford, a campaigner with the Manchester-based protest group Genetix Snowball, said yesterday that damage to conventional crops was "an unfortunate error".

She said that the organisation had pledged non-violent destruction of test sites every first and third weekend of each month. Some of the protesters were former anti-roads campaigners. Ms Elford said, but the movement was broad-based and included vicars and lecturers.

Andrew Wood, another Genetix Snowball campaigner, said: "There has been no opportunity for people to vote about genetically engineered crops. There has been no formal consultation with the British people and the Government has waived its responsibility in this matter."

"We are dedicated to non-violent, accountable and open protests. We always make contact with the farmers first and explain our concerns."

MPs and officials clash on catering ban

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs clashed with Commons officials yesterday after it emerged that the ban on genetically modified food in House of Commons restaurants was unilaterally imposed by senior catering staff.

They acted after the negative publicity about such foods earlier this year. MPs said the decision should have been taken by members of their catering committee, not by officials.

A spokesman for the Commons Refreshment Department confirmed that Sue Harrison, director of catering services, had taken the decision. He said: "We took the pre-emptive step by contacting our suppliers and asking them for an assurance that none of the food they supplied us with was genetically modified."

Suppliers told officials that none of the food going to the Commons was genetically modified, but could not confirm that all meat and poultry had not originated from animals which had been fed such foods. The spokesman confirmed that no regular food supplies had changed as a result of the new policy.

Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP for Chorley and a member of the all-party Commons Catering Committee, said the restriction had never been discussed by MPs. He had been unaware of the ban and was "appalled" by what had happened. The decision had been taken by officials who "decided it was in the best interests of Members not to have the food".

Jackie Ballard, the Liberal Democrat MP for Taunton, who also sits on the catering committee, said: "My personal opinion is that the right decision was made but probably in the wrong way. I do not think anybody should have to eat GM food."

Dennis Turner, MP for Welverhampton South East and chairman of the committee, was reported yesterday to have called for a select committee inquiry into genetically modified crops. "We do not know enough about the science," he said. "Until we get more satisfactory information, we feel it would be better, where possible, to avoid genetically modified foods."

Genetically modified crops are bred with genes from other species to make them resistant to pests, viruses and pesticides. Environmental campaigners fear that they could damage animals by killing off insects that are vital parts of the food chain. They also fear that the resulting food might be potentially harmful to human beings.

£35m boost for 24-hour medical advice service

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to provide an extra £35 million for a 24-hour medical helpline, giving more than 19 million Britons access to the service by next April. The money will add to the £14 million earmarked to set up the service.

The NHS Direct system, which enables callers to get 24-hour medical advice from a nurse, is also to be enlarged in some areas to include help from social service workers.

Three pilot schemes opened in Newcastle upon Tyne, Preston and Milton Keynes at the end of March. During June the three centres handled a total of more than 130 calls a day. Nurses found that in 80 per cent of cases the callers would have taken a different course of action had they not been able to obtain the advice.

A quarter of the callers were told to seek more intensive care than they had intended and nurses also called ambulances to take 99 people to hospital. In a third of cases, however, nurses told callers how to look after themselves without further help.

The service was most popular among the elderly and families with young children. Over the three months the pilot schemes also reduced the out-of-hours workload on doctors and hospital emergency departments.

Nurses working the helpline are chosen for their experience. They are all given special training to ensure that they know how to analyse what is wrong with the patients and are told to err on the side of caution in every case.

The nurses are able to call up information on illnesses and know which chemists are open and which hospitals have vacancies. They can in some cases make appointments for patients to see a GP.

Claire Rayner, a former nurse and chairman of the Patients Association, said: "When you are a nurse your friends and family are always calling for advice and reassurance, and this makes it possible for every family to have a nurse on call. The only problem is finding all the nurses that are needed."

The 13 areas to participate in the second phase of NHS Direct are West Country, Manchester, Essex, West Yorkshire, Hull and East Yorkshire, Hampshire, Nottinghamshire, North West Lancashire, Birmingham and the Black Country, South London, West London, the North East and Buckinghamshire.

Leeches rediscover the taste for life in hospital

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEECHES are back in vogue among surgeons, although the appearance of the medical bloodsuckers is so repulsive that a plastic shield is being developed to hide them from squeamish patients.

The creatures' value in removing unwanted build-ups of blood has been rediscovered over the past 15 years, after scientific advances were thought to have made them redundant. According to a study published today in *Student BMJ*, their spitte contains an anticoagulant that temporarily stops blood from clotting, an attribute particularly useful in skin grafts or in operations to stitch back severed joints.

Surgeons find it relatively easy to connect the thicker walled arteries that circulate fresh blood around the body, but the fragile network of veins that carry the used blood back to the heart and lungs is more difficult.

As a result, blood gets pumped into the area around the operation but cannot escape. If a leech is attached, it not only sucks out the excess blood but its spitte prevents clotting in the tiny Y-shaped



Ten leeches will suck a hand dry in four days

wound it makes with its mouth, so the operation area does not become engorged.

Leeches supplied to hospitals are first starved for four months. They suck their fill in about 20 minutes, absorbing about ten times their body weight, before falling off, replacing the anti-clotting effect of their spitte wears off and the wound heals.

Most of the leeches used in the world are bred by Biopharm, a small company based in Swansea that has seen demand grow rapidly. It has branches in the United States, Japan, Korea and Italy and sends supplies on demand to every plastic surgery

unit in Britain. On average 30 leeches, costing £10.25 each, are needed to treat a patient. Biopharm breeds about 30,000 a year, of which half are sold to NHS hospitals.

Marian Gower, the manager, said that the initial reaction of most patients was one of horror, but given the choice between losing a hand or being treated with a leech, they preferred to have their blood sucked. "Patients get quite fond of them and children give them names," she said. "They may look awful, but they are an endangered species and are very useful in medicine."

In their heyday, bloodletting was the usual medical treatment for almost every condition. The word leech may well be derived from the old English *laece*, meaning physician, according to Robert Weinkove, a fifth-year student from Guy's and St Thomas's Medical School who records "the fall and rise of the medicinal leech" in his journal.

"Overzealous use of leeches in the past has given these annelids an undeservedly bad press in the 20th century. Only now, as the millennium draws to a close, have surgeons and pharmacologists dared to re-assess them."

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The real Jennings is unmasked



The first edition of the first book

Glen Owen and Richard Duce
on the 'eccentric chap' who
went to school with the author

THE real-life hero of the Jennings stories has been identified, decades after the schoolboy character was created.

Anthony Buckeridge, whose *Jennings Goes to School* and a string of follow-up romps entertained a generation of children, says the "larky" schoolfriend who inspired him was Diarmaid Jennings, now 87, who left Britain nearly 60 years ago.

Buckeridge, who "invented" Jennings to entertain his pupils during a brief spell as a preparatory school master, says he drew on memories of his own schooldays at Seaford College, Sussex, and in particular the escapades of the mischievous and muscular pupil in the year above him.

Buckeridge developed the tales of "jolly decent" prep-school boys into radio plays in 1948 before penning *Jennings Goes to School* in 1950. A further 24 titles have followed. The stories, which have been translated into 13 languages, found most recent expression in *Jennings Again!* in 1991 (out west 4 bus rides, short trousers and words such as "gay").

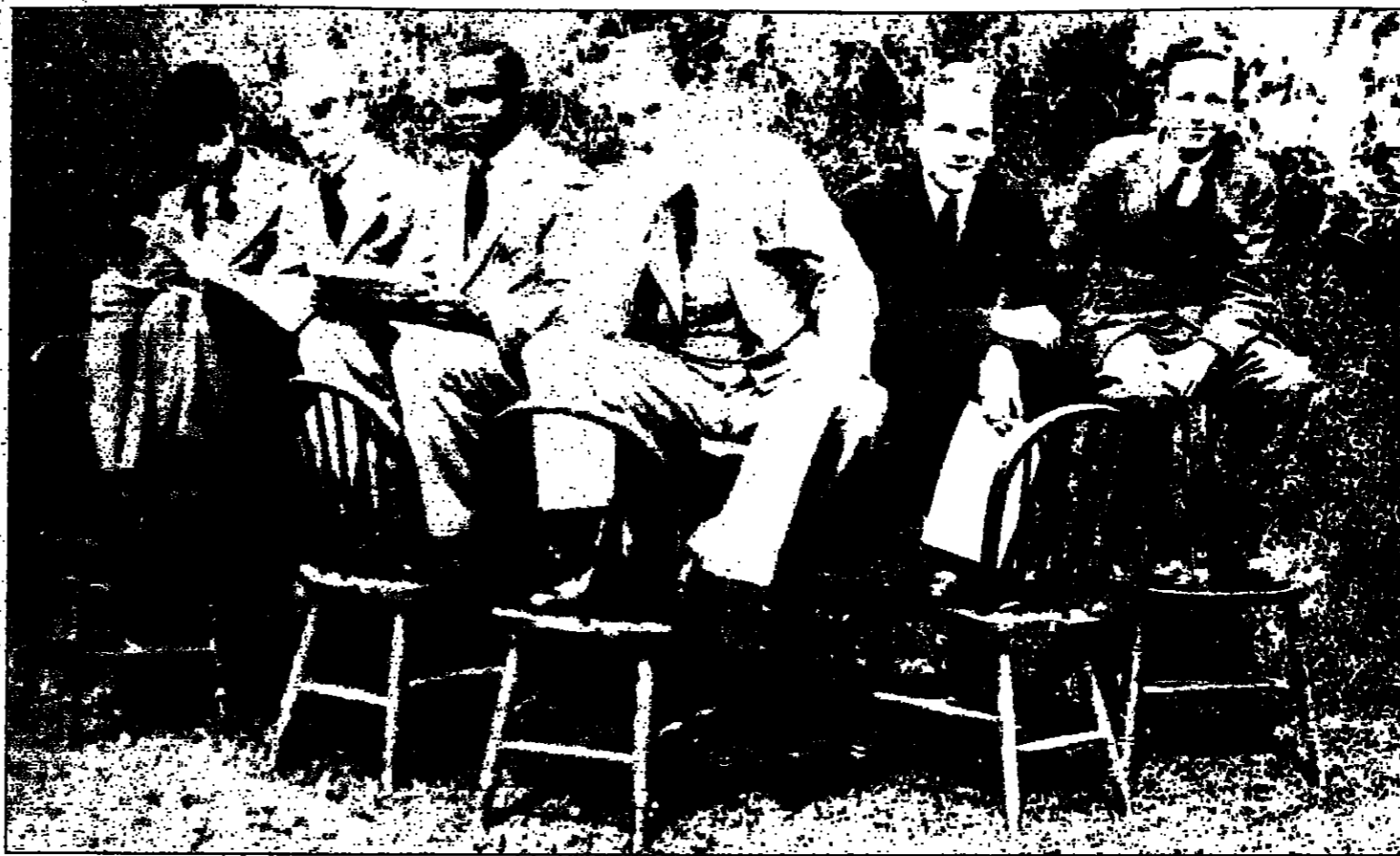
The homely tales still command a keen following among children despite being rooted in the old-fashioned setting of Linbury Court, a

1950s prep school. The biggest excitement for Jennings, Darbishire, Venables and Temple were midnight feasts and ginger beer.

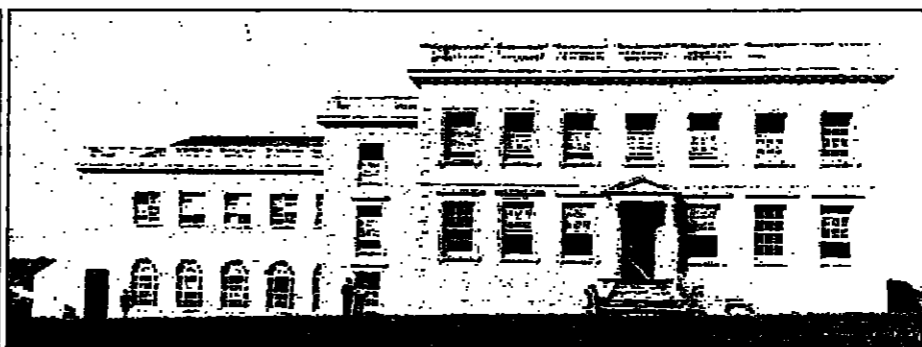
Buckeridge has always been coy about his inspiration for the "eager, friendly" rascal, but after private prompting from Michael Crick — Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare's biographer and a Jennings fanatic — he told him about Diarmaid Jennings, who, Crick discovered, went to work as a marine engineer in New Zealand shortly after leaving Seaford.

The school moved from Seaford during 1940 to Worthing, before eventually arriving at its present site near Petworth, West Sussex, in 1946. Along the way and in the confusion of the war years, all official school documents were lost.

David Holden, a former history master at Seaford who runs the Society of Old Seafordians, found references to the two boys in the school magazine, the *Marsdenian*. It records that both boys were members of Millbrough House during the late 1920s and members of the school debating society, with Buckeridge becoming its first president. The first debate a decade after the horrors of the First World War was on the



Anthony Buckeridge, second right, photographed in 1928 at Seaford College, below right, and at his home at Barcombe, East Sussex



motion "War is obsolete in Europe". It was defeated 46-9. During his debating career Jennings once supported the motion "That the inventions of this century (1829-1929) have not increased human happiness"; the motion was carried.

Both boys played rugby, although it appears young Buckeridge was the better, reaching the 1st XV, while Jennings only played for his house. A contemporary criticism of Buckeridge's play read: "His speed serves him

well as a wing three-quarter, but he does not tackle low enough and his kicking is poor."

He was a hall prefect in 1929 and was made school captain in September of that year. Both boys also had a liking for acting and Buckeridge is recorded as playing the part of Mrs Gushington-Nervesby in a play entitled *Browne With An E*, while Jennings took an apparently more minor role as a luggage man in a farce by Harry Grattan. Both boys

left school in 1930 to go their separate ways.

"I knew this eccentric chap in the year above me, and a couple of his escapades fixed in my mind," says Buckeridge, 86, explaining how the real-life Jennings stirred a few "frantic hoo-hahs" at Seaford. "Once he captured a spider, which he pretended was poisonous and released in the dorm, causing great consternation. We were all too scared to get into bed. He then made himself the hero of the hour by recapturing what

was obviously a harmless creature.

"Another time, he went missing from school, hunting, he said, for a lost glove. After a while, when he didn't come back, a search party was sent out for him, which he spotted and joined the back of. It was too dark to see him. That was typical. "He was cheeky and boisterous, and the model for my first stories, but I haven't seen him since we left school. I had no idea he was still alive."

Diarmaid Jennings's

nephew, Dirmuid Jennings, has written to his uncle to tell him about his place in literary history. He said that his uncle, who suffered a stroke recently, was too ill to speak on the telephone so had yet to discover that he had been identified, even if he knew that his schooldays had been immortalised in the books. "My mother remembers him mucking around a lot. She says he was a larky sort of boy." And for that, a generation of schoolboys should be grateful.

Jeweller attacked by robbers posing as joggers

By ADAM FRESKO

A HIGHLY organised gang posing as joggers robbed a jeweller of a collection of diamond bracelets, necklaces and rings worth up to £400,000.

The jeweller, who does not want to be identified, had employed a bodyguard to carry the jewellery from his home in Hendon, North London, to his office but the 45-year-old man was attacked as he reached his car.

Two men dressed as joggers hit him several times in the face until he fell. They snatched two holdalls he was carrying before making off in a car driven by a third man.

The men escaped with a quantity of jewellery that had a wholesale value of £200,000, but the retail value is thought to be worth at least double that.

Officers described the robbery as a "professional hit" and said the gang knew exactly what was in the holdalls and when to attack. The guard was taken to the Royal Free Hospital, but was released after treatment for cuts to his face.

Detective Constable Reg Pickering, who is leading the investigation, said: "It was all over in a split second. This is a particularly large heist."

The jeweller, who is believed to have an office in Hatton Garden, has requested "limited publicity" over the incident.

PC Paul Knowles, of the Colindale robbery squad, said: "The man was coming out into the street with the two bags. The attackers were dressed up as joggers and ran up to him and punched him in the face. He was knocked to the ground and they grabbed the bags. Then a car came along driven by another man and they jumped in leaving the victim on the floor."

The getaway car, an L-registered Volkswagen Corrado that had been reported stolen from Chiswick on July 10, was recovered in Muswell Hill and was being examined last night. The two joggers are described as white, aged between 28 to 30 and of athletic build.

National Trust fights foreign Snowdon bid

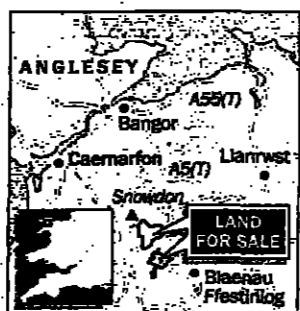
By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust is close to beating off a foreign bid to buy a large chunk of Mount Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales.

Negotiations for the sale of 4,118 acres of land in Snowdonia National Park, including the southern flank of the mountain, which rises to 3,557 ft, were said yesterday to have reached a crucial stage. "We are into very detailed discussions, and we are extremely hopeful," says Carys Howell, the trust's public affairs manager in the region, said. "We have not yet secured an agreement, however."

The land and consists of two sheep farms, the Hafod-y-Llan and Gelli Iago estates, including about a third of Snowdon. Richard Williams, the present owner, put the properties up for sale last month inviting offers "in excess of £3 million". Mr Williams, whose family has farmed one of the estates since the middle of the 17th century, said he wanted to concentrate on running another farm, he owns on Anglesey.

"The decision to sell the property, which has been in our family for so long, has



caused me much heartache," he said. "Over the past ten years, however, I have been farming both the Snowdonia estate and my estate in Anglesey, and this has left little time to be with my family and pursue other interests."

Carter Jonas, the agent handling the sale, said yesterday that the National Trust was not the only bidder in the running. "We have had expressions of interest from more than 100 individuals and charitable institutions, including potential buyers in North America, Ireland, Switzerland and Canada," Emma Phillips, a spokeswoman for the firm, said.

The bid by the National Trust, which already owns ten per cent of the Snowdonia National Park, is backed by the Snowdonia National Park Authority, the Welsh Office,

the Countryside Council for Wales, Gwynedd council and Beddgelert Community Council, in whose domain the land lies.

Iwan Huws, the park authority's chief executive, said: "We are backing the trust's bid, as are the main conservation groups with an interest in the area, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, the Snowdonia Society and the Woodland Trust."

The National Trust's bid is being challenged by the Countryside Restoration Trust, a charity whose trustees include the environmentalist Jonathan Porritt. Robin Page, its chairman, said the trust had put in "a serious bid" and believed it would manage the farms better than the National Trust. "The agricultural practices carried out on some National Trust land are quite appalling from a wildlife viewpoint," he said.

"We have been asked by the National Trust to drop out of the bidding to prevent the price from going up. We are quite willing to make the same bid as the National Trust and let the owner decide whose plans would be best for the area and for the people and wildlife of Snowdonia."

Treasurer jailed for £30,000 church theft

By A CORRESPONDENT

A TREASURER for a parish council who stole more than £30,000 from church funds was yesterday jailed for 12 months.

John Currie, 53, took the time to prop up an ailing timeshare business and pay his household bills. The former district councillor wrote out cheques to himself while working as treasurer of Somerset Parochial Church Council, at St James's Church, Somerton, Oxfordshire.

Nicholas Syrett, for the prosecution, told Oxford Crown Court that Currie, of Somerton, near Bicestor, Oxfordshire, had become treasurer in 1993 and stole until his arrest in September 1997. "During his reign he had sole control of the church accounts. He wrote out cheques from the parochial church council and spent £14,000 on funding a company called British Heritage Hotels."

Judge Anthony King told Currie, who admitted 12 charges of theft and two of false accounting: "It was a substantial breach of trust as the money was stolen from charitable sources."

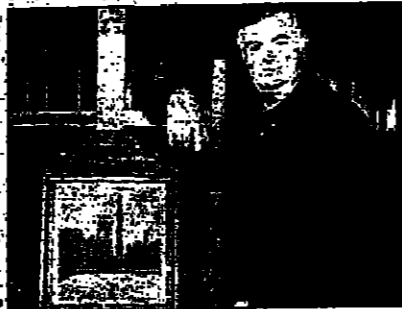
Cook's 'fake' Lowry is real thing

By JOANNA BALZ

WHEN the television crime reporter Roger Cook tried to expose the lucrative trade in fake works of art by buying an imitation L.S. Lowry painting, he actually ended up with the real thing.

The painting, which is worth up to £40,000, was bought for less than £1,000 during an investigation into the world of art and antiques. The work had earlier been examined by the Lowry Museum in Salford, which was doubtful that it had been done by the artist, renowned for simplistic, industrial scenes and stick figures. A Nottingham auctioneer withdrew it from sale, and researchers for TV's *The Cook Report* snapped it up to use in a sting.

Its authenticity was established only when the TV firm took it for other opinions.



Roger Cook with the "fake" Lowry that cost him less than £1,000.

signature, written in a ball-point pen, was hidden by a painted signature which looked like a fake. Her belief that the painting was genuine was backed by dealer Andreas Kalman, who had known Lowry for 50 years before his death in 1976. The painting has now been valued at up to £40,000. Mr Cook said yesterday: "If these experts don't agree,

what chance does the man in the street have? I've always had a cynical opinion of experts in the art world.

"There will be arguments about who valued it for what and why and who should pay whom. We paid for it as a fake because we thought it would good for another sting, but we didn't use it for that."

Programme editor Mike Morley said: "There is no intention to sell it. It's never been a profit-making exercise."

He said the programme showed some of the pitfalls of dabbling in the art and antiques world, the underbelly of which is a trade in stolen art and treasures reported to be worth £500 million. The programme, to be shown on August 19, uncovers someone who allegedly puts criminals in contact with those who want works stolen to order.

The *Cook Report* team took over a large country house for the hidden-camera operation and left a £20,000 painting lying around to bait the thieves.

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Inspired moment set royal trend

By JOANNA BALE AND ADRIAN LEE

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who celebrated her 98th birthday yesterday, pioneered the royal walkabout in 1939 when she broke with protocol and strolled into the crowds to greet people on a tour of Canada. It was a spur-of-the-moment decision — and one of her most inspired.

Accompanying the King to the opening of the Canadian Federal Supreme Court building, she was told that a group of stonemasons who had worked on the project were from Scotland. She left the official party, sought out the Scots in the crowd and spent ten minutes reminiscing.

On the same tour, while laying a wreath at the Ottawa war memorial, she again broke away from her planned routine to seek out a group of war veterans.

The crowds were enraptured. The Governor-General, Lord Buchan, reported to London that the Queen "has a perfect genius for the right kind of publicity; the unhearsed episodes here were marvellous".

During the Blitz, she earned great admiration for refusing to leave Buckingham Palace for the safety of Canada, despite nine hits on the Palace. She and the King showed their solidarity with those on the home front by visiting the smoking ruins of bomb-damaged areas, mingling with Londoners and taking shelter with them.

At one time, the Queen Mother would mark her birthday by appearing on the balcony at Clarence House. Later, she began appearing at the gates. The first birthday walkabout probably came around 1980, one of her officials said yesterday, "when she wanted to get nearer the people. Because she was getting older, more fuss was being made of her birthday."

Now the event has become a fixture in the royal-watchers' calendar. Many of those who cheered the Queen Mother yesterday have made the annual trip for many years.

Wearing floppy Union Jack hats and waving flags, Elaine



The Queen Mother on her 98th birthday walkabout at Clarence House yesterday. She pioneered the tradition of meeting the people while in Canada in 1939, below

Gaffrey, 56, and Alvine Pearce, 52, from Gloucester, said they had made their first birthday visit to Clarence House in 1978. Each year, they travel to London by train, stay in a hotel to ensure a prime spot, cheer the Queen Mother, then complete the day with chocolate fondue at the same Piccadilly restaurant.

Edith Main, 88, remembers seeing the Queen Mother on her walkabouts in the East End during the Blitz. "Every-one really appreciated her coming to see us. It showed that she really did care," Mrs

Main, who has been among those singing *Happy Birthday* to the Queen Mother outside Clarence House for the past three years, added: "I am only ten years younger than her, so I feel I have known her all my life. It is really something seeing her. She hasn't changed in all these years."

Terry Hutt, 63, of Waltham Abbey, Essex, who had camped out overnight for the third year in a row to secure a prime position, said: "I met her in person when I was four years old during the Blitz. I have been following her ever

since. She's a very special lady."

Phyllis Clowes, 78, from Cricklewood, who was nine when her parents first took her to see the Queen Mother, said she had been going along to the birthday walkabout "for as long as I can remember. I love the pageantry and the uniforms. Last year she held my hand and thanked me for coming. I was so emotional I was hardly able to wish her happy birthday." Miss Clowes has one ambition. "I hope we are both still around for her 100th."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Blind man sexually attacked by guide

A blind man waited for almost two months before telling police that he had been sexually assaulted in a city centre alley by a man who befriended him. The victim, in his 20s, feared that his blindness made him a poor witness. The man, who was carrying a white stick and wearing a denim shirt and jeans, was attacked on June 3 while on a shopping trip in Edinburgh. His assailant took him by the arm and offered to lead him to a shop when he became lost after leaving a pub in the Princes Street area. The attacker was described as a muscular man in his 30s or 40s with bushy hair and unshaven, possibly about 5ft 10in.

Stagg fined

The man acquitted of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common four years ago was fined £250 for threatening to kill his estranged wife. South Western Magistrates' Court heard that Colin Stagg, 35, of Roehampton, also threatened her boyfriend.

Unlawful killing

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded at an inquest in Birmingham into the death of Kevin Miles, 16, who went missing three years ago. Alan Giles, serving life for his murder, last week admitted strangling Kevin and burying him in a garden.

Student took life

A student hanged himself because he thought he was ugly, an inquest was told. Dean Horton, 21, died at home in Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, after taking a year off his dentistry studies at Bristol University. Verdict: killed himself.

Cliffhanger

A man of 26 was being questioned by police after climbing from the ramp of a cross-Channel ferry at Dover, threatening to jump from the White Cliffs and throwing himself into the sea. He was picked up by coastguards after a three-hour chase.

Lucky mistake

Ken Murgatroyd, from Dorset, a former Royal Marine, dialled a wrong number and reached the set of Steven Spielberg's new film, *Saving Private Ryan*. Mr Murgatroyd offered his military expertise and was given a job on the film.

Murder appeal

Police investigating the murder of a 52-year-old woman appealed for help to trace a man, white and in his early 20s. He was seen, red-faced and out of breath, close to woodland in Sandiway, Cheshire, where Julia Webb's body was found on July 22.

Ton of bad habits

Louisa Hanson, of Bourne-mouth, has just celebrated her 100th birthday, reached despite a daily diet of full-fat fry-ups, cigarettes and alcohol. She drinks two bottles of sherry a week and insists that nursing home staff take her to the pub once a month.

Early to work makes Samuel a bright boy

By VICTORIA FLETCHER



Samuel Solomi: begins study at 4am each day

A NINE-YEAR-OLD mathematics prodigy, who is waiting for his GCSE result this month, is rising at 4am every day to teach himself the A-level syllabus. Samuel Solomi could read at 18 months and knew his times tables by the age of three. When his ability surpassed the lessons at his primary school, his mother, Victoria, withdrew him and began teaching him at home.

Mrs Solomi guided her son through the GCSE course, but now Samuel is teaching himself from A-level textbooks which his mother says she cannot understand. "He gets up at 4am and

works until he drops. He can work for ten hours continuously," Mrs Solomi, of Paignton, Devon, said.

"People think we push him, but we don't. We have to make him stop sometimes. It took him two weeks to complete an A-level textbook that takes students twice his age six months to finish."

Samuel is expected to reach degree-level mathematics within a year, and will then receive tuition from the Open University. His mother worries, however, that until then, he will not be able fully to develop his natural ability. "There is just no support. If he was good at sport, for example, there would be sponsorship for him," Mrs Solomi, who

trained as a teacher, said. She and her husband, who is disabled, have two younger sons.

Samuel's appetite for learning has spread to other subjects. He is teaching himself modules of GCSE physics. But Mrs Solomi, who has two younger children, admitted that, as with many children who display traits of genius, there were problems. "He doesn't really get on with children of his own age," she said. "An Open University professor came to visit him recently. It was wonderful to see him talking to someone with whom he was really able to communicate. After she left he said, 'I'm so excited about my life.'"

Judges attack poor quality of asylum lawyers

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES have given a warning that asylum and immigration cases could be jeopardised by the poor quality of some barristers.

They have attacked the standards of written and oral arguments presented to them in judicial review hearings and appeals, according to a report on improving advice in immigration services, published yesterday. The report by the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct said: "It has been put to the committee that many only that unimpressive cases and points are taken, but that good cases and points may also be lost through poor advice and advocacy."

There is concern among immigrant welfare organisations that some lawyers appear without proper preparation and in cases that are completely unconvincing. The Immigration Appeals Authority has also complained about the variable standards among members of the legal profession in an area where most solicitors and barristers lack "both knowledge and expertise".

The report said that private fee-charging "consultants"

were at worst unscrupulous as well as incompetent, that there was evidence that members of the public were being charged extortionate fees, and that advice was sometimes not merely inaccurate but dishonest.

The report also gave warning that the huge numbers of people seeking advice threatened to lower standards of advice given by immigration advisers in community groups. "Incompetent advice is not confined to the work of private immigration 'consultants'. We believe that many well-meaning and dedicated immigration advisers in community groups, not-profit agencies, and the legal profession are working at or beyond the limits of their capacity, skills and competence," the report of an 18-month enquiry said.

It called on the Law Society and Bar Council to provide guidance to solicitors and barristers on the skills and knowledge needed before lawyers describe themselves as competent to undertake immigration work. The report also recommended a code of standards for immigration advisers working in the voluntary sector.

Authorities double up to help with problem pupils

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

SCHOOLS are to be provided with information by social services about the home lives of problem pupils and urged to understand them rather than exclude them.

The Government announced yesterday that local authorities will have to show that their education and social services departments are working together to support vulnerable children. They will be jointly inspected by Ofsted, the schools watchdog, and the Social Services Inspectorate.

The initiative — a pilot scheme will be launched in Northumberland next year —

is part of the Government's attempts to reduce school exclusions and to provide support for disaffected children in every aspect of their lives.

Announcing the pilot project, Estelle Morris, the new School Standards Minister, said: "The pilot scheme recognises the links which exist between the services provided by local authorities. By bringing these together, these inspection arrangements, I believe we can help reduce the burden on authorities preparing for separate inspections."

Mrs Morris added that a single inspection of both de-

partments would limit the time wasted by local authorities and allow them to concentrate on providing the best services to those who use them and rely on them."

The Local Government Association welcomed the co-ordination of education and social services inspections. Ivor Widdison, a spokesman, said: "This is a very interesting and novel idea. It is vital that education and social services are co-ordinated in this way as it demonstrates the reality of looking after children in both areas."

Protest a matter of grave concern

Demonstrators win right to enter cemetery, writes Simon de Bruxelles

PROTESTERS campaigning to prevent the closure of a giant Victorian cemetery won an important round in their legal battle yesterday when a judge refused to ban them from the site.

There have been more than 500,000 burials at Arno's Vale cemetery overlooking central Bristol since it opened last century, but the owners claim they can no longer afford its upkeep. Four months ago closure plans were put on hold after people whose relatives are buried there staged a sit-in and said they would take over the maintenance.

Tony Towner, a solicitor who owns Arno's Vale, said he was disappointed by the decision. He added: "This site is very dilapidated and dangerous. I cannot afford to run it and anyone could get injured visiting here. It needs to be closed down, but the court chose to ignore this issue. I do not wish to comment about what I intend to do in the future."

The 25-acre cemetery sits on a hillside in Brislington. Its occupants include



The owner of Arno's Vale cannot afford to maintain mausoleums

more than 450 servicemen who relatives paid up to £1,000 for a 99-year plot lease. The cemetery has become overgrown and several mausoleums are in dangerous condition. At night it is the haunt of vandals and drug addicts.

Rodney Jones, 48, whose daughter is buried there, said: "It is disgusting that Mr Towner ever tried to close this

cemetery. This is still not the end of this fight. The future of the graveyard is still in doubt but we have a massive amount of support and believe that we are right to try and keep this open."

Ron Veal, 78, whose children Carol and Robert are buried there, said: "For 30 years I have been visiting the graves of my children. If Mr Towner had won today this would have been the most painful moment of my life."

Malcolm Gregory, for Mr Towner, told the hearing: "My client is unable to exercise proper control and management of the site with these protesters here. This is a privately owned cemetery and my client is entitled to act according to his own wishes."

District Judge Michael Daniel said it would be wrong to evict campaigners because that would mean banning grieving relatives. He said: "It seems inconceivable that the court should be in a position of having to enforce the order to select those that should be evicted."

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Civilian 'killed by secret Israeli missile tests in south Lebanon'

A LEBANESE civilian has been killed and his brother wounded by a secret new missile Israel that is testing in its occupation zone in southern Lebanon.

Israel has been carrying out tests of the "mini-cruise missile", which skirts just above the ground and dodges hills and trees, in its neighbour's territory since February. Rumours about the existence of the advanced, guided anti-tank missile have been circulating for more than a year.

The missile, still classified by the Israeli Army, has sparked considerable speculation among weapons specialists, the United Nations troops serving in south Lebanon,

UN soldiers report seeing new weapon,

writes Nicholas Blanford in Beirut

and the Lebanese Army. Finnish soldiers serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) and Arabs have witnessed the missiles in flight. The Unifil troops were given a warning not to approach the remains of one missile but they managed to recover parts of another.

In the attack, brothers Hussein Mouqalled, 19, and Muhammad, 17, were walking halfway up a steep valley on their way home to the village of Arab Salim after

spending the day tending to their beehives. They were in full view of an Israeli compound, two miles away at the far end of the valley. "I looked to my left and saw this rocket coming straight towards us. There was no time to move," said Hussein Mouqalled. The missile passed between the two and detonated against the cliff. Muhammad caught the full blast and died instantly. His brother escaped with severe burns to his back. Witnesses said the missile had

been fired from a helicopter seven miles from where the Mouqalled brothers were walking. Those who spotted it in flight said it skirted hills, flew over the villages of Deir Mimes, Kfar Tibnit and Kfar Roumane and along the length of the valley before abruptly turning towards the two men.

As the potential for conflict in the region grows, Syria has taken an interest in sightings of the missile and has examined fragments that have been recovered by the Lebanese Army. Syria has 30,000 troops in Lebanon.

It is believed that the missile, almost certainly the NT Dandy and also known as the "Long

Spike", is being made by Israel's Rafael armaments company based in Haifa. The first recorded use of the missile was in February when an unknown projectile was launched at a civilian car five miles from an Israeli compound in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. The occupants escaped unhurt.

On May 19, two identical missiles were fired from the same position at a unit of Shia Muslim Amal guerrillas who were infiltrating the occupied zone. The first missile veered off course and exploded harmlessly. The Finnish Unifil soldiers noted that, as the second missile approached the guerrillas, "it appeared to be

searching for its target" before plunging to the ground. Three guerrillas were wounded, one seriously, in the explosion. The attack on the Mouqalled brothers took place 12 days later.

The most recent sighting occurred on July 6 when a Norwegian Unifil soldier saw a missile pass overhead and crash into a hillside. The Israeli Army, admitting that the weapon had gone out of control, instructed Unifil to stay away from the blast site. The vital components were later collected by Israeli troops, leaving only a few pieces of twisted metal for the UN peacekeepers to examine. A Unifil officer said the Israelis

were using the occupied zone "as a testing range" to prove the weapon's guidance system. "It's the perfect place for them to try out new weapons against real targets without any repercussions."

Christopher Foss, of *Jane's Defence Weekly*, said: "The advantage of such a missile is that if you have guerrillas in one of six houses, the missile can be launched at a long distance and flown directly into the house containing the guerrillas without damaging the other buildings." The Lebanese Army said there was little it could do to intervene. "We are always the victims," Colonel Maher Toufic said.

Congo uprising shatters dream of renaissance

The alliance that drove Mobutu from power is divided by new accusations of corruption, writes Sam Kiley

DREAMS of an "African renaissance" led by a new breed of leader have been shattered by an armed uprising against President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo and fears of a return to all-out civil war in neighbouring Angola.

Less than 18 months since he led a campaign backed by Rwanda, Uganda and Angola to oust Mobutu Sese Seko of the then Zaire, Mr Kabila yesterday looked in danger of being toppled by his former allies.

According to independent sources throughout eastern Congo, ethnic Tutsis who formed the backbone of his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo in 1996, have attacked the towns of Goma and Bukavu on Lake Kivu, as well as Uvira and Kisangani, the country's third-largest city which controls shipping on the River Congo.

The sudden uprising, led by his own 10th Battalion of mainly Banyamulenge (Tutsi) fighters, began in Uvira, the eastern town from where Mr Kabila began his march on Kinshasa more than 1,000 miles to the west in October 1996. Heavy fighting with artillery and mortars was reported from all the flash-points, indicating that the Tutsi soldiers appear well coordinated in their attempts to depose Mr Kabila, whom rebel radio accused of corruption and incompetence.

These failings led to the downfall of his predecessor, and to a plan hatched by the leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda, Rwanda, and Angola to clean up the many areas of



Kabila: accused by allies of corruption.

instability in central and west Africa by working together to depose Mr Mobutu, and cut off all supply lines to Angola's rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi.

The mood of change was taken up by Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's Deputy President, who said last year that the "African renaissance" was imminent. But the concept died at birth as its midwives squabbled along the borders of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Last week Dr Savimbi's Unita movement clashed with Angolan Government forces and drove them out of several villages. This week *The Star* in Johannesburg reported that he had hired 300 mainly South African mercenaries to boost his own force of 10,000 to 15,000 guerrillas.

Several of Mr Kabila's ethnic Tutsi ministers fled into exile last week as news of the

army rebellion filtered through to Kinshasa where he dismissed his chief military adviser, James Kabari, and ordered non-Tutsi soldiers to "shoot on sight" any "foreign troops" they saw in the capital.

Yesterday Kinshasa was rocked by pre-dawn battles around the Kokolo barracks where 1,000 Tutsis, many of them Rwandans "on contract" to Mr Kabila, were based. Sources in Kinshasa said that they had fled into nearby forests. Expert jungle warriors, they are likely to regroup and counter-attack.

"We, the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have taken the decision to remove President Kabila from power," said a statement broadcast on Sunday in French and Swahili over Radio Goma, according to the Rwandan News Agency.

Mr Kabila's indigenous army was trained and equipped by the Tutsis with backing from Congo's neighbours and is unlikely to be able to win a sustained conflict with its former mentors.

"This is the endgame we all feared when Mobutu was driven out of power," said a Western diplomat in Kinshasa. "The worst didn't happen then because the Tutsis kept a grip on things. Now they have split away, and they could be beyond anyone's control."

□ Kinshasa: Banyamulenge rebels hijacked a private aircraft in eastern Congo yesterday and ordered the pilot to fly to Kivona military base near the Atlantic coast, a spokesman for Mr Kabila's Government said. (AP)



A Jewish family claims that *Odalisque* by Matisse — in Seattle Art Museum — was plundered by the Nazis

Gallery is sued over 'looted' art

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE heirs of Paul Rosenberg, a prominent Jewish art dealer who fled Paris during the Second World War and took refuge in the United States, have sued the Seattle Art Museum for the return of a painting by Henri Matisse, alleged to have been stolen from Rosenberg by the Nazis in 1941.

The lawsuit, under which the family seeks to recover *Odalisque* — painted in 1927 — is the first against an American museum over art seized from Jews by the Nazis. Although the museum initially said that it would have preferred a settlement reached by mediation, it later expressed a preference for the dispute to go to court as a test case. In court, the museum's lawyers hope to resolve the role played in the painting's history by Knoedler & Company, the renowned Manhattan art

dealer which bought *Odalisque* in 1954 from a gallery in Paris.

However, the Rosenberg family, convinced that they have incontrovertible proof that the painting was stolen from them, are unhappy at having to go to trial to recover the object. Elaine Rosenberg, the widow of the patriarch's son Alexandre, said: "There is no justification for the Seattle Art Museum's forcing the Rosenberg family to incur the expense and delay of bringing a lawsuit."

Experts in Seattle have valued the painting at \$2 million (£1.2 million). The whereabouts of *Odalisque* were not known to the Rosenbergs until 1996. In that year, a Canadian timber magnate called Prentice Bloedel gave the painting to the Seattle Art Museum. Shortly afterwards a book called *The Lost Museum: The Nazi Conspiracy to Steal the World's Greatest Works of Art* was published, in which the author, Hector Feliciano, cites the painting as one of

many plundered by the Nazis. He stated that it was stolen from Rosenberg.

A grandchild of Mr Bloedel, who is now dead, recognised the illustration in the book as matching the painting that had been given to the museum. The Bloedel family then contacted the Rosenbergs, who filed a legal demand for the painting's return on October 17 last year.

They agreed to wait until June 15 before taking further legal action, a period meant to allow the family and the museum to settle the dispute out of court. However, on June 12 the museum wrote to the Rosenbergs expressing a wish to go to trial.

Mr Feliciano, who spoke yesterday to *The New York Times*, has expressed surprise at the museum's position. The "art sleuth-author" said: "This is a very, very solid claim, where you have documents all the way through from the 1930s through the 1960s showing that the painting belonged to the Rosenbergs."

Clinton fails to shield confidants

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON lost a last-ditch attempt to stop close confidants, who are also White House lawyers, from giving testimony before the Monica Lewinsky grand jury yesterday.

For the second time in a little more than two weeks, Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the United States Supreme Court ruled against Mr Clinton whose lawyers had filed a late night emergency motion to bar Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, from penetrating the President's inner circle.

In his first ruling, Chief Justice Rehnquist ordered that Secret Service agents who guard the President must tell the grand jury whatever they knew about Ms Lewinsky's visits to Mr Clinton. In his second, he cleared the way for Mr Starr to ask White House lawyers about the matter.

Two hours later one of them, Larry Brewer, a key member of the President's damage control team, appeared before the grand jury investigating contested allegations that Mr Clinton had a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky and then pressured her and others to lie about it. Yesterday's ruling also allows Mr Starr to summon Bruce Lindsey, a White House lawyer who has been the President's closest ally since their days in Arkansas. Mr Lindsey is recovering from surgery and unable to appear for a week or so.

He is the keeper of so many Clinton secrets that he is jokingly known as "All the President's Man". Among his tasks in the past, was the tracking down of several women whom he urged to deny allegations that they had affairs with Mr Clinton.

Brown Maddox, page 16

Girls switched at birth to meet blood relatives

FROM DAMIAN WEITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

TWO girls switched at birth three years ago are likely to continue living with the families who have raised them, but will be introduced to their natural relatives. Last night's apparent agreement between the two bewildered families would avert a long and complicated legal battle over the children, who already face a confusing future.

"I think this is something that those families will be able to work out privately between themselves concerning developing relationships, but certainly no switching will take place," said Michael Irvine, an attorney for the family of Rebecca Chittum, one of the girls, adding: "The families are saying they want to do what's best for the children."

The mysterious swapping of the two girls in a maternity ward at the University of Virginia Medical

Centre in Charlottesville in 1995 is the subject of a criminal investigation. The swap came to light only after paternity tests conducted to try to settle a legal wrangle over child support payments revealed that Callie Johnson, the other child, was not biologically linked to her parents but had been mixed up with Rebecca, who was born at the same time.

Rebecca's situation has been further complicated by the death in a car crash, four weeks ago of the couple she had known as her parents, Kevin Chittum and Whitney Rogers. She is being cared for in rotation by three sets of grandparents and step-grandparents.

"They want the child they've raised and loved for three years," Mr Irvine said. Investigators appear still to be no closer to understanding how the babies were swapped in hospital.



Hulse: required reading for expatriates in Mexico City

British journalist killed in Mexican robbery

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A BRITISH journalist who had lived in Mexico for 47 years was murdered in her flat in a fashionable quarter of Mexico City, apparently by a robber who was in her home when she returned from work.

Susan Caroline Hulse, 60, popularly known as Sally-Sue, is thought to have died instantly after being stabbed twice in the chest with a flick knife. She was a "society" columnist for the *Mexico City Times*, an English-language paper for American and British expatriates. Her weekly column, *Pulse* by Hulse, was required reading for this group, listing parties, births, deaths and the arrivals of prominent visitors.

Police described Ms Hulse's murder on Sunday as "very strange". She had returned to her home in the company of a friend, Silvia Vélez, at 4:30pm. On opening the door they

found a man, who claimed to be a relative of a cleaner who worked in the building.

The flat was in a mess, with drawers pulled open and clothes and books strewn all over the floor. It appears that the two women were about to raise an alarm when the man hurled himself on Ms Hulse — who was the closer of the two — and pulled out a knife. Ms Vélez, standing by the door, fled in search of help. When she returned with the police Ms Hulse lay dead on the floor. She had been gagged.

Ms Hulse, born in Britain, lived as a child in British Honduras, now Belize. Her father was a rector of the Episcopal church, who moved to Mexico when she was 13. Yesterday Joe Nash, a journalist who worked with Ms Hulse, said: "She was very well-loved in the community."

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Massacre fuels nuclear rhetoric over Kashmir

FIVE days of cross-border shelling between Indian and Pakistani forces in Kashmir, killing dozens of civilians, have plunged relations between the two nuclear powers to their lowest ebb in years. Pakistan warned India of the dangers of "major conflict".

Threats by Pakistan have destroyed hopes for a new dialogue, writes

Christopher Thomas in Delhi

A war of words has been fuelled by the massacre in India of 35 Hindus in two attacks by suspected Kashmiri Muslim militants — one of the worst atrocities of its kind since the Kashmir uprising began nine years ago. The slaughter happened in the neighbouring mountain state of Himachal Pradesh, a normally peaceful backwater.

made it all but impossible for them to attack anything but soft targets, leading to a number of attacks on Hindu civilians in the Jammu district of Kashmir — a mainly Hindu region that until recently has been relatively free of trouble.

ly for local consumption rather than indicating any serious immediate danger of war. The economy is in crisis because of sanctions after the detonation of nuclear devices three months ago and enthusiasm for the blasts has given way to despair about mounting economic, security and social problems.

Men with automatic weapons roused road construction workers sleeping in several tents on Monday, ordered them to stand in three rows and shot 26 dead. Many others were injured. The second attack was also on construction workers in the same region. Men were ordered to line up against a row of trees before nine were shot.

Pakistan is intensifying its rhetoric against India, destroying any hope that the two sides might resume constructive talks in the near future to tackle the issues dividing them. Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, issued a warning that border clashes could lead to widening conflict and said that all of India was within Pakistan's range — perhaps a hint of the danger of nuclear conflict.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Indian Prime Minister, said Delhi would deal with Pakistani border shelling with a "firm hand". He told parliament that he had told Nawaz Sharif, his Pakistani counterpart, during talks in Sri Lanka last week that Islamabad's support for Kashmiri terrorism was incompatible with the desire for friendship. That is much calmer language than Pakistan is using.

Thirty additional companies of paramilitary police were sent to the area yesterday to support a security sweep. The attacks mark a new low in the tactics of Kashmiri militants, who have lost most of their grassroots support and have taken a battering from Indian security forces.

Mr Khan's rhetoric is clear. There is no doubt that Islamabad does sponsor terrorism in Kashmir, which has had a long list of grievances since two thirds of the former independent state came under Indian control half a century ago. These include the repeated rigging of elections to show a pro-India slant.

There is no doubt that Islamabad does sponsor terrorism in Kashmir, which has had a long list of grievances since two thirds of the former independent state came under Indian control half a century ago. These include the repeated rigging of elections to show a pro-India slant.

The intensity of army and paramilitary operations in the former princely state has

an austerity package agreed with the International Monetary Fund in return for a \$17.2 billion (£10.5 billion) bail-out for its recession-hit economy.

Army sends men home

Bangkok: More than 100,000 Thai military conscripts are being offered unpaid leave because the army is running out of money to pay them, army sources said yesterday.

All young Thai men are conscripted for up to two years. They are paid 34 baht (50p) a day. (Reuters)

The cross-border shelling was at its most intense over the weekend, but was reported to have subsided last night. Rifle fire, however, was at times intense.



A Thai drug addict holds a butcher's cleaver to the throat of an 18-month-old child to persuade Bangkok police to give him a gun. He was overpowered after 30 minutes and the boy rescued unharmed. Amphetamine addiction in Thailand has soared, according to police.

Yo-yo theft a rising crime

Singapore: A yo-yo craze sweeping Singapore is contributing to juvenile delinquency with thefts of the toy accounting for almost half of all juvenile shoplifting cases in May. The New Paper reported yesterday.

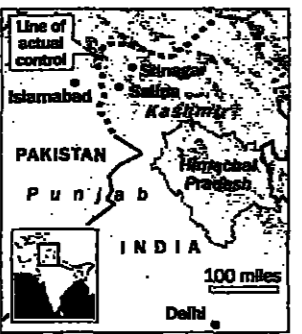
Soldiers swept away by Yangtze

A DYKE on the rain-swollen and dangerously high Yangtze River has broken its banks, washing away a company of soldiers sent to shore up the embankment, officials said here yesterday.

evacuated and living in tents on the dykes is low. The Government has provided supplies of emergency medicine and rice. Overall damage is estimated at £2.9 billion.

China's main flood season is only now approaching and meteorologists are predicting that tropical storms could now hit the southeastern coast. Preparations are being made to guard against floods on the

Yellow River, further to the north. The Yellow River was once known as "China's Sorrow" because of the many lives its floods took annually, but for much of the year now the river bed is dry in parts because of the siphoning off of water for industrial and irrigation projects.



Last orders for French three-star restaurants

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BUSINESS may be turning sour for the *crème de la crème* of French cuisine, since financial backers are finding it increasingly hard to stomach the cost of bank-rolling three-star French restaurants, purveyors of the world's most refined and expensive food.

Many of France's top restaurants never break into profit despite their high prices, according to a survey, and while those awarded three stars by the all-powerful Michelin Guide are still considered the best in the world, they are also crippling expensive to run.

The latest casualty is Alain Senderens, one of the most famous chefs in France, whose Lucas-Carton restaurant in the eighth *arrondissement* of Paris is one of just 21 restaurants to boast the coveted three Michelin stars this year.

M. Senderens's *Homard de Bretagne et sa polenta à corail* (Breton lobster with coral polenta) is widely regarded as one of the most toothsome dishes invented by man, but his financial backers, the Japanese brewing and hotel group, Asahi Okura, have reportedly decided to pull out of the business, leaving the chef looking for a new partner.

In an interview with *Le Figaro*, M. Senderens said that "haute cuisine" such as his was becoming less financially viable. "Social changes, the approaching 35-hour week, the luxury trade which carries us along and which is going out of fashion — the entire profession is asking questions. The luxury trade has to reposition itself," M. Senderens said.

A financial survey showed that, with a few notable exceptions, many of the most famously opulent restaurants are consistently running at a loss, with some establishments losing up to Fr4 million (£400,000) a year.

Chefs say the situation is in contrast to the commercial hunger for three-star restaurants: and their equivalents a decade ago, when financial backers were lining up to

underwrite the most fashionable and expensive French eateries. A sign of the future came three years ago when Pierre Gagnaire became the first three-star chef to declare bankruptcy. M. Gagnaire has since opened another restaurant in Paris, and promptly won back his stars.

The crisis among three-star restaurants partly reflects their own high standards and the enormous costs of maintaining, and constantly evolving and improving, the luxury fixtures and fittings, not to mention the menu. Many insist on a ratio of one waiter for every diner, resulting in a huge wage bill.

L'Arpegé in Paris, one of the few three-star restaurants to post a profit, is preparing to spend £50,000 this year on another set of cutlery. A new batch of handmade chairs at Troisgros restaurant in Roanne will cost the owners £35,000.

The owners of three Michelin stars are also facing stiff competition from less grand establishments which arguably offer better value for money by spending less on decor and more on the food.

"Three-star restaurants in France can be divided into three categories," according to Alain Ducasse, the French culinary star whose restaurants in Paris and Monaco both have three stars. "One, those that are owned by families; two, those that are owned by financial groups; apart from one or two exceptions, the rest are in trouble."

Many chefs argue that without government help in the form of reduced charges and VAT, they cannot long survive in the current financial climate.

"Today no financier worthy of the name would invest in such an undertaking. You have to be mad, like us, to keep up a 28-acre park, to swallow up Fr3 million or Fr4 million on doing up the kitchens," remarks Michel Guérard, of the famed three-star Les Prés d'Eugénie restaurant in the Landes.



Daniel Nivel lies critically injured after being beaten by German hooligans in Lens on June 21

Gendarme battered by soccer thugs is out of six-week coma

BY BEN MACINTYRE



Nivel: conscious but likely to suffer brain damage

THE gendarme beaten unconscious by German soccer hooligans during the World Cup has come out of the coma in which he lay for six weeks and may soon be able to leave hospital, doctors said yesterday.

Daniel Nivel, 43, has fully regained consciousness and no longer needs a ventilator to breathe. But he still has speech and comprehension problems, and muscle weakness on the right side of his body.

The policeman, a married father of two, was attacked by a gang of German hooligans on June 21 outside the stadium in Lens, northern France, on the night of the Germany-Yugoslavia match. His head injuries were so severe that doctors feared he might never regain consciousness.

Five Germans have been charged with attempted murder: four in Germany and the fifth in France. Doctors said that no further sur-

gery was planned and that M Nivel would be allowed to move to a rehabilitation centre for physiotherapy in two or three weeks. But they also said that he was likely to suffer long-term and possibly irreversible brain damage.

"We are happy that he is making such good progress, but he still needs up to a year of speech therapy ... We will not know for several months whether he will make a complete recovery," a hospital spokesman said.

M Nivel was trapped in a Lens side-street after the match by about 20 German fans. He was allegedly beaten to his knees with a wooden advertising panel, then repeatedly hit with his teargas launcher, according to a reconstruction of events by *Der Spiegel*, the German magazine. He was then kicked while on the ground, investigators said.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Tutu attacks 'lies' of white leaders

Johannesburg: Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday attacked South Africa's former white leaders, saying most of them had lied to his post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission. "True reconciliation cannot be based on lies," he said in an article published in Johannesburg's *The Star*. Archbishop Tutu, who chaired the commission which last week ended a two-year inquiry into apartheid-era human rights crimes, said whites had not matched the willingness of their black victims to forgive. In an clear reference to F.W. de Klerk, the former President, he said those who had known about illegal acts and done nothing to expose them had condoned those actions. (Reuters)

Australia to get fast train

Canberra: Australia has announced plans for a A\$3.5 billion (£1.2 billion) high-speed rail link between Canberra, the capital, and Sydney, the first of its kind in the country. John Howard, the Prime Minister, said the Speedrail consortium, jointly led by a Franco-British group, had won the project. The new rail link, based on France's TGV system, should more than halve the overland travel time for the 198-mile journey between the two cities to 81 minutes. The air journey takes about 50 minutes. The line will not be finished in time for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. (Reuters)

Scare over Havel condition

Prague: President Havel of the Czech Republic fell "temporarily" into a critical condition but doctors said they stabilised him with electronic shocks. During a two-hour crisis, Mr Havel's heart rate soared to 200 beats per minute due to blood poisoning caused by pneumonia, and his blood pressure fell to critical levels, his doctor, Iija Kotik, said. He added that the President's heart rate was "almost normal" later and signs of blood poisoning were receding. (AP)

Iranians seek British payout

Tehran: Iranians wounded by Iraqi chemical weapons in their 1980-88 war have lodged a complaint against the weapons' users and suppliers, including Britain and other Western governments, an Iranian military official said in remarks published in the *Tehran Times*. Muhammad Baqer Nikkhah said the victims had filed complaints to international bodies demanding compensation for their sufferings. (Reuters) Leading article, page 17

CIA honour for Bush

Washington: The CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia, just outside Washington, will be renamed after George Bush, the only former President who was also director of the agency (Ian Brodie writes). Mr Bush became director of the CIA in 1976 and was credited with restoring morale among its beleaguered staff. The agency's headquarters will be known as the George H.W. Bush Centre for Central Intelligence.

Fruit-picker shot dead

Kuala Lumpur: Harun Mamat, 47, who climbed a tree to pick mangosteens, a tropical fruit, was killed by hunters who mistook him for a squirrel, reports said. Mr Harun was shot in the chest while perched in the tree in a village near Kota Baru, in the northern Malaysian state of Kelantan. One of the hunters has been detained for questioning. (AP)

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Confessions of a social dyslexic

Once a model, now a writer and chatelaine of a country home, Barbara Neil has it all — but for private demons. Interview by Magnus Linklater

A sleeping child is woken in the middle of the night and carried, half-conscious, head flopping in the arms of an adult, into a room where there is a group of strangers. She is then set down among them. We do not know what happens next, except that we know it is wrong. Even without guessing the motives of those who have woken her, we sense that something terrible is going on.



Sixties child: Neil became a model at 16

The result is a deep-seated trauma that twists the lives of two sisters, caught up in this unspecified abuse. As they grow older, one runs wild, fleeing the memory of those interrupted nights through a life of drink, drugs and destructive sexual relationships. The other tries to confront the past, wants to uncover what really happened, but finds that no one will talk to her. Unable to form any kind of relationship, she retreats from human contact.

This enforced silence is the painful theme of Barbara Neil's fourth and most challenging novel, *A History of Silence*. Like the others, *A Man With His Back to the East*, *Someone Wonderful*, and *The Possession of Della Sutherland*, it digs deep into the facade of ordinary life to explore the dislocating reality behind it.

Her publishers wanted to know more about what had actually been done to the sisters. Ms Neil leaves the reader guessing. "It could be a paedophile ring going on there," she says. "But I maintain that if the worst thing that had happened to them was that they had been woken as infants and carried while still sleeping and set down among strangers, that is abuse enough — if the circumstances are sufficiently sinister or confusing, that is enough to destroy a child's stability."

The book has been warmly

received and her American publishers are excited about it. In France and Germany her novels have been enthusiastically reviewed.

So far, however, she has not made a serious breakthrough in Britain. Here, the reaction to her work remains uncertain. That may be because Ms Neil does not fit easily into any conventional pattern. Her own life, apparently one of social ease, conceals a background as turbulent as those

or not titled seems to me laughable. It doesn't matter."

Her family history is about as removed from country life in Wiltshire as it is possible to imagine. Her grandfather was an Edinburgh wholesale butcher, her grandmother worked as a maid and lived in almshouses, where Barbara's mother was brought up.

"When I married Andrew," she recalls, "my mother said 'Don't tell him where we used to live.' Her father was a brilliant and complex man who helped to pioneer the Alexander technique in Britain. A severe asthmatic, he was so ill as a young man that he was told he was unlikely to live past the age of 21. Instead, he was taken up by the young Frederick Matthias Alexander, who said that he could cure him, but only if he came to live with him in Oxford. There he learnt to cope with his asthma and to pass on the Alexander method to young students."

In his mid-twenties he set up his own centre in London and numbered among his patients Yehudi Menuhin, David Ben-Gurion and the painter Patrick Heron. He met Barbara's mother, who was a secretary, seven years older than him, and married her after an eight-year engagement. But shortly after the war, when Barbara and her brother were young children, he abandoned the family home, leaving his wife to make ends meet. She ran a boarding house in London.

Not surprisingly, Barbara has mixed feelings about her father. "He was a heavy drinker, though he didn't get drunk. He was funny, naughty and rude, always immaculately presented. But I never had a proper conversation with him. Sadly, I did not know him. I now realise he was brilliant, dealing with sick people, children, paralysed people. He was a master of self-control. When he died at the age of



Barbara Neil, who has just published her fourth novel, *A History of Silence*, has a background that is as turbulent as any of her characters

only 42, with his unimpeachable mistress, he refused to allow her to call a doctor. He wanted to go."

His former patients set up a fund to educate the children, and Barbara and her brother Murray were sent to smart schools in London where, she says, they learnt nothing. "I went to a school for rich children. It was useless, except for my English teacher. I am completely untrained and uneducated... you only realise

as time goes by just how difficult that can be."

At 16, she left school and became a model, almost immediately taken on by the celebrated Peter Lumley agency, and later Eileen Ford. Soon she was on the international circuit, jetting off to New York, Germany, Paris and Milan. "My mother was curiously unprotective," she recalls. "I worshipped her. I was still tied to her in an unhealthy child-like way, but she was quite a cold woman. I was hanging on, I think, trying to get something that was ungiven."

It was, she admits, a glamorous life for a 16-year-old, and she was acutely aware of the savage competition. "I don't think I was cut out to be a model. I felt like a basset-hound among lurchers." She clearly had something, however. She cut her hair very short, "like Jean Seberg", and one day she remembers being picked out from a line-up of 15 top models by an agent who offered to carry her bag. "Anyone with an ass like that gets her bag carried," he announced.

Soon she was being hand-picked for major campaigns by top photographers such as Saul Leiter and Marvin Sokolsky. She was rich enough to have her own flat in Hampstead, and she was right at the heart of the Swinging Sixties. "To be English in the 1960s, to be able to travel, to feel at home in Paris or New York, that was something on a different plane."

One boyfriend was the pop singer P. J. Proby. "It was entirely chaste, we had to pretend to be sleeping together."

Then two disastrous marriages followed. The first, to Daniel, the son of the writer and critic Goronwy Rees, later suspected of being a spy, lasted ten months and was, in her words, "a sorry episode" which left her with no money and the bailiffs at the door. "I had no confidence, gave up modelling and worked for a marketing company at £19.50 a week. I didn't know what was going on in my head."

She married her next husband, Richard Behrens, "because people kept asking me to marry them, and finally I thought it was absurd to refuse. Richard was unbelievably pressing. There were several guys turning around, four of them, in fact — I couldn't

cope. It sounds nice having lots of men courting you. But by then I was exhausted. I locked myself in the bathroom and stayed there. I thought I'd wait until they left and whichever one of them remained I would marry. It was Richard. I made no bones about the fact that I was not in love with him. He knew that."

"I wouldn't call either of them marriages," she says, "I never really formed a relationship. It always seemed to me that everyone else had a clear social background, to either stay in, leave, or leave and return to — they had a fixed identity, something I never had and never developed."

Her second marriage lasted less than a year and ended when the children, twins, were only a month old. By then she

had formed a rather longer-lasting relationship, but it was not until she met Andrew Christie-Miller that she found the stability and security she had lacked. And with that came the urge to write.

"Married to Andrew, I was secure for the first time in my life," she says. "I was not cut out to be the country lady who does charities and church flowers; so I took stock and thought, 'I'll do this in the background. Now it feels so normal for me to be writing."

"I always had a sense that I'm misunderstood, always felt as though my life has been like a dream and I'm shouting or screaming and there's only silence and the whole world carries on and I'm not expressing myself. I see huge amounts going on and it seems terribly burden-

some keeping it inside." Self-taught, she says she owes a lot to the help of friends, particularly the writer, Al Alvarez. "He's taken the trouble to see what I'm trying to do — to be honest with me."

She denies that her novels are based on her own experiences of life. "I'm not writing to sort my head out. I'm writing because that's what I do — like painters paint or singers sing. That's what came naturally to me as soon as I wasn't gasping to make a living, gasping to survive. I think I live the way I live because I am a writer. I would never have dared to say that three years ago."

The next book is on the stocks, the publicity circuit beckons this autumn in America and, as usual, she will be there to perform with perfection her role as chatelaine of Clarendon. But in the background Barbara Neil will still be wrestling with demons.

A History of Silence by Barbara Neil is published by Macmillan at £18.95

The fact that someone is titled or not is laughable

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ARTS

All the fun of the Fringe beckons at Edinburgh — but is it just a trade fair for comedians? Page 29

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I am a square statistician

Bill Frost

Why do girls smoke

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'I am just a squalid statistic'

Child prostitution is reported to be increasing. Bill Frost meets a victim

There are dark circles beneath her eyes and her nails are gnawed to the quick; Shelley is a nervous wreck with a lifetime's worth of bad memories.

Now 26 — but looking almost twice her age — she spent ten years "whoring" on the streets of London, Manchester and her own home town. She made only enough money to keep her in crack cocaine, supplied by the violent boyfriend who forced her to become a teenage prostitute.

Shelley was living with her parents in Keighley, West Yorkshire, when, at 15, she was lured into addiction and crime. Convent-educated and set on becoming a nun, she made the mistake of falling for Carlton, an older man with a drug problem. Both her father, a railway ticket inspector, and her mother opposed the relationship.

"I was a virgin when I met Carlton, now I am just a squalid statistic, a girl who went whoring," she says. "I wanted to be a bride of Christ, not enslaved by a violent pig."

Shelley has looked into the abyss — three suicide attempts, two overdoses and at least four miscarriages. Hundreds of young girls like her are being drawn into prostitution by older men while they are still living at home, according to research by the children's charity Barnardo's. Sara Swann, who drew up the report, says parents, irrespective of social class, should be aware of the danger. "If a child is below the age of 10 and is going out with someone more than five years older, her family should be aware there is a real risk. Their

daughter could be involved in an abusive relationship that may involve some form of prostitution."

The report, based on interviews with staff from 48 health and welfare agencies, highlights methods used to persuade girls to sell their bodies. They can be kept in rooms, refused access to the lavatory, and moved from town to town as sex slaves.

"I was absolutely shocked by the whole survey. We think this is just the tip of the iceberg," says Mrs Swann.

Shelley's eyes water all the time, the result of her crack addiction. Her two children, Carlton Junior, five, and Cerisse, three, dab her eyes and ask why their mother is so sad. "I tell the kids that everything is OK but I am sure they know I am very unhappy sometimes and wish they had a proper dad."

Her home in Tooting, southwest London, is cheaply furnished and clean. But much to Shelley's anger and continuing shame, prostitutes ply their trade on the local common where she takes her children to play.

Her own early childhood was "very happy", she recalls. "I was mother's little helper, a really good little girl." But with the onset of puberty, Shelley's nature changed; she became rebellious, combative towards nuns at the convent and, on her own admission, very interested in boys. "I first met Carlton when I was 14. I had bunked off to a club in Leeds." He swept the impressionable convent girl off her feet that night. They danced, they drank and Carlton, then 20, introduced her to cannabis. "In the small hours, he



Soliciting on the streets: Barnardo's warns parents to be on the lookout for relationships that can end in drug abuse and prostitution

took me home to his flat and seduced me. There were more joints and he showed me some porn — at the time, because I was stoned, it seemed very exciting."

With the benefit of hindsight, Shelley today describes her affair as "a bloody awful mistake". The man who seduced her that first night was to become violently abusive.

"My parents suspected nothing for the first couple of weeks. Then I began staying out all night and there were terrible arguments. I wanted to go back to them, but Carlton would lock the door and ask who I loved the most — him or my parents. I was so young and thought: I was so in love."

Over the course of three months, Carlton introduced her to hard drugs and began asking if she would like to earn some "serious money". Once she had first taken

crack cocaine, Shelley's moral compass was lost. She would do literally anything for the next smoke.

"We moved in together and, at first, everything seemed fine. Then this man I loved told me I had to sleep with other men so we could pay the rent and buy crack. I cried for a while and then he beat me, beat me very badly."

"The following morning I knew I would do anything for more drugs and much more to keep Carlton. That night I slept with a man for money."

The pattern was set — "friends" visiting at home, beatings if Shelley failed to earn enough and occasional drug-fuelled love-making with Carlton. Then came the day when he told her she was to become a streetwalker.

"I should have refused but I couldn't — I needed him, I needed crack and I was

scared of the beatings. Anyway, once you have turned the first trick, the rest are easy."

Having eventually discovered her new address, Shelley's parents tried time and again to make her come home. They gave up after she opened the door and spat at them while Carlton jeered.

"After a while, you get used to abuse — you almost welcome violence as evidence of your partner's commitment," recalls Shelley.

Carlton decided that Keighley and Leeds were "not paying enough" and the couple moved — first to Manchester and then London. "King's Cross was the worst — we lived in a dive and I wasn't eating. There was only sex for money, crack and beatings."

"By then I had given birth to my first child and Cerisse was on the way. Thank

God Carlton Junior was not born with a habit like his Mum. Life had become unbearable: miscarriages, overdoses and suicide attempts. A couple of times I called my parents, but they didn't want to know any more.

"A priest saw me in hospital after my last overdose and I rediscovered my faith. I stopped doing crack, with great difficulty, and eventually telephoned my parents and my two brothers."

"They just gave me a blank — it was the worst day of my life."

So far, Shelley has resisted Carlton's many attempts to lure her back. "I do not blame my parents for not seeing what was happening to me — it was the last thing they expected — I was going to be a nun. But I will always watch my own children like a hawk — I know just how bad life can be."

Why do girls really smoke — and what makes them stop?

WHY I SMOKE

by Bryony Gordon aged 18

I was at a party, several weeks ago, that I realised how many of my friends smoked. As I glanced round the room I could count only two people, in a crowd of about 50, who didn't have a pack of Marlboro Light or Silk Cut in front of them. Their two cigarette-free bodies provided a stark contrast to the rest of us: ashtrays full, chain-smoking, as if it were some regulation that

we all had to comply with. In the wake of findings of the *Post-Graduate Medical Journal* — published this week — I've given much thought to why I smoke. Research conducted among 2,000 teenage girls in London and 800 in Canada revealed that 19 per cent of those who smoked claimed they did so to make themselves less hungry. But the more I think about my own habit, the more convinced I am that it was prompted by reasons other than weight loss. My habit began at the same time as my social life: suddenly, we were hanging out with boys who smoked — and it all seemed so wild, glamorous and grown-up. Soon I was on five a day, then ten a day and

before I knew it my cigarette consumption had topped 20 a day. By which time I didn't really care if I was impressing anyone or not, because I was addicted. I don't think that girls deliberately put themselves on a Marlboro Light — or lite — diet. In most instances I believe that it's more a case of looking the "thing" in your group of friends than it is about actually being thin. But a side-effect of the peer pressure that has turned me into a smoker is, of course, the fact that a packet of cigarettes contains a lot fewer calories than a packet of crisps. So that in turn, I suppose, cigarettes may

well have become some sort of food substitute. And I will admit that if I am out at night with £3.50 in my wallet, however hungry I might be, that money will go on Marlboros, not a McDonald's. The worry of finding myself without a cigarette — and nothing to smoke with my first cup of coffee of the morning — is much more of a concern than the next meal. Maybe this is why, over the past three years, I've lost under a stone. But losing weight was never my primary concern when I took up smoking; it still isn't. There are, excuse the pun, so many cigarette butts that my parents and their friends throw out to me. But don't you worry about cancer? But don't you care about the smell of smoke that clings to you and your clothes? But don't you think it's such a terrible waste of money? A new but — But aren't you worried that smoking will turn you into an anorexic? — doesn't really bother me any more than the others. The fact is my generation smokes because it wants to. We're not at an age where we can see the future — and any threat to our health — as anything more than a vague vision on the horizon that is obscured by a thick haze of cigarette smoke. Which will clear. I have absolutely no doubt, by the time we are ready to take on the responsibility of creating the next generation.

WHY I GAVE UP

by Alex O'Connell aged 24

My nails were turning the colour of Dijon mustard. I had a hacking cough worthy of a medicine advert, and I was about to move in with my boyfriend. Ten days before the removal van arrived, I decided it was time to kick (the) butt and give up smoking. He is no non-smoking fascist, but he doesn't smoke and by then I'd tasted the difference (and so had he). I decided that at 24 years old I wanted minty breath, filter-free fingers and lungs that didn't feel as if Greenpeace should be pulling dead seagulls out of them. I'd been rolling my own or having fisticuffs with the cigarette machines — so reluctant to dispense, you'd think they had a conscience — since I was 13. I didn't worry that I'd take the last fag-end out of my mouth and replace it with a stream of ples, buns and squishy rolls to make myself feel better. That would be the fun bit. I was more concerned about Mr Hamilton, my

chain-smoking newsagent and fag-seller, who, only last year, sent me a birthday card with a baby rabbit on it. I worried that I'd have to buy him expensive cigars and subscribe to obscure journals if I still wanted the paperboy to deliver. The habit had started with the 14-year-old Huffy — ice-cream cool, with Sun-Inned hair, smoky-grey eyes and a 40-a-day habit. My mother knew there was something up when I started getting up an hour earlier than usual — to crimp my fringe — and then came home one summer evening, smelling of Bonfire Night.

Growing up in Loggerheads, near Stoke-on-Trent, it was a struggle to be cool. Before I met Huffy, at 13, I was either playing Astro Wars or hanging around bus-shelters. But in two days of meeting we found the coolest location and the perfect pastime: smoking in Fine Fare café. The coffee was as undrinkable as a shot of Thunderbird with a sewer-water mixer, but our parents and their vigilante friends didn't shop there. We were safe. We could smoke. When it was time to go home, we'd chew gum and I'd wash my hands in the Ladies. We both got grounded and we both continued. His parents smoked, mine didn't. Huffy dumped me for someone who

could blow smoke-rings and apply liquid eye-liner with a steady hand. I moved away from Stoke when I was 15. London sated my boredom, but I was addicted and couldn't be bothered to give up. So I continued smoking, right up until a few months ago. Eleven years since I first sparked up, and after 94 days without one, I still feel like the Timotei girl's smellier sister. I still have loose tobacco at the bottom of my bag and I still reach out for one at the end of each meal. But Mr Hamilton turned out to be a hero. He told me I should have given up years ago and presented me with enough gum to keep me chewing until Christmas.



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Is honesty Clinton's best policy?

The President must stick to his story, says Bronwen Maddox

I keep thinking of that point in the near-disastrous Apollo 13 mission when the crew appeared to have survived all imaginable malfunctions. Their booster rockets had failed; so had the solar panels. But they had made it round the dark side of the Moon and were heading home. Then the heat shields needed for re-entry fell off.

They triumphed in the end, the scorched capsule dangling from its three parachutes, floating down to the sea with ridiculous ease. Will President Clinton manage such a graceful landing from his predicament? For seven months, the conventional wisdom was that he had shrugged off the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Now, in a wrenching about-turn within just a fortnight, Washington is speculating that he may not last the two years until the end of his term.

lawsuit that has been dismissed. So the Washington clamour this week would have the President embark on "Operation Candour". Go on national television, admit to an affair with the former 21-year-old trainee, and appeal for forgiveness. But that enthusiastic consensus would plunge him in legal and political problems that could mean the end of his presidency.

For a start, Paula Jones would be back. He would face the risk of a new criminal lawsuit from her on the ground that he destroyed her civil case by committing perjury. People might be more willing to believe Ms Jones's claims if the President had admitted on oath that he had lied about another sexual relationship. Mr Clinton might also face a perjury charge from Mr Starr for his testimony in the Jones case.

The reversal in mood is justified. He has suffered the loss of several crucial legal shields. The Supreme Court has insisted in a series of rulings — including one yesterday — that Secret Service agents and government lawyers must testify, even if it damages the person

Nor should Mr Clinton heed the siren songs this week of leading Republicans, who seemed to promise that a confession would not lead to impeachment hearings. Like Mr Starr, they might well not resist the opportunity, once they

Even the 'love dress' may not prove conclusive

had the confession in the bag. True, they do not want to create a precedent for the 2000 elections. But they would not have to bring the hearings to a conclusion; they could simply let them drag on through the final gasps of the Clinton Administration. Above all, a confession would destroy Mr Clinton's credibility. He would be seen to have lied to his press spokesman, his aides, his daughter, and to 270 million Americans.

It is best chance of survival probably lies in toughing it out. The dress? It is far from certain that it will yield sufficient quantities — if any — of usable DNA material. He and his lawyers, and the Washington rumour-mill, may well know more by the time he testifies. But even if the dress supports DNA analysis, the tests are hardly the uncontroversial procedure that some recent comment implies.

As a committee for the US National Research Council pointed out in a lengthy report in 1996, the technique continues to improve, but there is room for error. It depends inescapably on a judgment about whether two samples match, and crucially, on the statistical methods used to interpret the similarity.

This territory is more O.J. Simpson than Richard Nixon. No President would happily choose to spend his last two years battling through it. But the chances for survival from denying an affair that did indeed take place are not as bleak as many have assumed this week. Stonewalling may offer a better chance of a soft landing than the beguiling but perilous "Operation Candour". If he did have an affair with Monica Lewinsky, his behaviour throughout his history of crisis suggests he will still deny it.



Call it a day, Mr Cook

Besieging Iraq has cost Britain a small fortune and achieved nothing

So here we are, six months after Robin Cook sent his "unmistakable message" to President Saddam Hussein and Madeleine Albright sent her "clear signal". Here we are, six months after a British carrier group and 18 Tornados arrived in the Gulf, ready to rain down bombs on Iraq. Here we are after we forced Saddam to back down and inspected his palaces for weapons of mass destruction. Here we are, after Cool Britannia donned a steel brassiere and Tony Blair appointed Mr Cook to ethnic the unethic-

strength" of the Western stance last February. An unpleasant tyrant has been allowed to thumb his nose at the most devastating armies on earth. With no will to win, the weaponry is so many popguns.

The costs of these six months may seem trivial. They are merely invisible. General trade sanctions always attack the poor rather than the rich. The cost to ordinary Iraqis and the Middle East economy has been huge. Wealth in besieged states goes to those who support the regime and can circumvent rationing and subvert embargoes. Saddam's circle is doing well out of sanctions. He is probably right in his view that no American or British leader is going to end them as long as he is in power. Not a week passes without a congressman

refusal to fund Britain during the war. (In South Africa, sanctions disciplined the economy and prolonged the apartheid regime.) All evidence of their use against dictatorship suggests that an economic siege merely cements a ruler in power.

Sanctions encourage a belief that public misery is due to an outside rather than an internal enemy. They bring the rich ever closer to the regime, and make the poor more dependent on it for sustenance and protection. Sanctions are targeted at people, not governments. It is the essence of their immorality.

Of course there are alternatives. One is to leave nasty regimes to their own devices, an option apparently unthinkable to Mr Cook's diplomacy of fidget. He finds half the world either a danger to the other half, or too offensive to humanity to leave alone. Yet if he will not wage war, then he must wage peace. This involves the full panoply of "constructive engagement". It implies targeted aid, trade, finance, tourism, educational, political and cultural exchange. It buys goods, welcomes students and sends teachers. It supports local media and promotes contact. It spends £100 mil-

lion building bridges, not bombing them.

Such engagement is, in varying degrees, British policy towards states as questionable in their democratic credentials as Kenya, Israel, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and even Iran. Engagement appears to be the policy towards Indonesia and Nigeria, in both of which it appears to be working, and towards Russia and China, where it does not.

It may lack the videos, the bombs, the headlines and the "feel-good" factor of the West's Iraq policy, but engagement makes sense. It is based on sound 19th-century liberalism. It holds that human contact and commercial intercourse are politically constructive. Trade broadens the base of economic power within a country. Education extends an awareness of freedom. Both pluralise the avenues for diversity and even dissent.

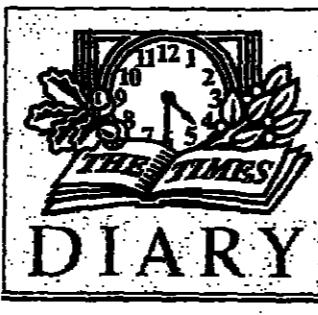
For some reason this argument does not apply to Iraq. Indeed its opposite applies. According to the British Government, what Iraq has most needed in the eight years since the Gulf War is abuse, sanctions, impoverishment, ostracism and an occasional monsoon of fragmentation bombs. Not surprisingly, this has led to no rush of prosperity or freedom.

Simon Jenkins

Home guard

A CANTANKEROUS band of defeated Tory MPs plans to stand against official Conservative candidates in next year's Euro-elections. Scatological souls should be warned: the line-up resembles *Dad's Army*. The leader is Nicholas Budgen, and he has signed up Winston Churchill and Tony Marlow, all of whom were sitting in the Commons on the Tory benches until April last year. All have been rejected by the Tories as Euro-candidates. They hope to touch Paul Sykes, the microchip plutocrat who funded anti-federalist candidates at the general election, for a quid or two. A deal is likely with the Referendum Campaign and the UK Independence Party not to compete.

"The party has been saddled by candidates who don't represent the grass roots. There will be no choice for people who want to vote for anti-federal Euro-candidates," suggests Marlow, who hopes a broad-based movement will emerge. "We want credible people to front this. There are business people and academics who could be involved." Sykes is interested: "I would consider any proposal they put to me. I support candidates who would slow up European integration." Budgen boasts that "there are people getting in touch all the time". Official Tory candidates predict a bloodbath with the scapies who did so much damage. "It's a reflection on those guys that they didn't get selected in a one-member, one-vote election. Tough luck, mate," says Timothy Kirkhope, assured election as an MEP. "It is a myth that the Budgens have support."



current Test star is guilty of this vulgar act? Cowdrey, ever the gent, refuses to be drawn.

Dirty emission

POLLUTION problems at the Department of Transport. Dr John Reid, the new minister, caused an explosion when he sat down to light the first of his 40 cigarettes-a-day. Distressed civil servants told him that what might have been acceptable at the Ministry of Defence, Reid's previous billet, was not on at the MoT. A lively exchange followed. The gasping Reid threatened to conduct his briefings in his Commons office. A compromise was brokered: Reid would work in the department's cramped smoking room. But this room has long been annexed by Glenda Jackson (pictured in familiar pose).

Boxed in

FTTY Paddy Ashdown. The Liberal Democrat leader has shown discreet interest in a house in South London but has given up as he cannot afford it. When in London, he lives in a maisonette. He rather fancied a larger pad in the same street but the house price has risen to £280,000. Ashdown has told neighbours that he cannot afford it as his London home is deemed his second



Liquid lunch?

MAKE way for the next Linda McCartney. Trudie Styler (pictured), Mrs Sting is writing *The Lake House Cookbook*, named after her sweet £2 million, 14-bedroom cottage in Wiltshire. "It will be all-organic affair," says a source close to Styler's. "With plenty of sweets, cakes, stuff like that." Although Ms Styler has devised the recipes, she is being "helped" by the Lake

Home's resident chef

Sting is not dipping his spoon into the pot. PALL Mall is a little racier than one might imagine. Patrick Despard, a fabulously wealthy property tycoon, found that both of his last two sites there had been notorious brothels in the 18th century. He has now acquired No 53-54: apparently, 200 years ago it was "an exceedingly bawdy and sinful place frequented by gentlemen". That would be the RAC, then.



JASPER GERARD Alan Coren is witty.

The price of priapic paradise

Viagra should not be on prescription, pleads Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Is there a pill to give me a headache? Not anything too excruciating, you understand, just a nice, easy throb in the temples. And if so, might I have it on the National Health Service? I could need it, you see. A lot of British women could need it when Viagra gets its licence. And if you think Viagra is the capital of Iceland, then you're in for a shock. It's something rather less frigid.

Now is the dawning of the age of Priapus. The little blue impotence pill is the medicine of the times. Where once we took Prozac as a pick-me-up, it's no longer the mood which is in need of a lift — it's the libido instead. In America, where Viagra has been on the market for three months, a generation brought up to think of sexual pleasure as a human right — only omitted from the UN declaration by some coy oversight — is ready to put itself into sexual overdrive. Viagra, apparently, strips off the years and turns pensioners back into virile paramours. Meanwhile, shareholders in Pfizer, the company that manufactures this pleasure capsule, put fat pockets in anticipation of whole populations falling under their thrall.

By next month Viagra could be licensed in Britain, despite the fact that its side-effects are not fully understood. Scientists in America are investigating the deaths of some 30 citizens whose heart attacks may have been brought on by popping a pill. But the real question now facing the British Government is whether the virility drug should be prescribed by the health service.

This week doctors and health insurance companies in Germany decided that Viagra would have to be paid for privately. Since about seven million German men suffer from impotence, it was calculated that if each of them was prescribed two Viagra capsules a week, the annual cost would not fall far short of the nation's expenditure on all other prescribed medicines put together. Britain should follow Germany's lead and insist that Viagra takers pay for their pleasure.

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for Viagra in principle. Impotence is said to afflict almost a tenth of the adult male population of Britain, including many who suffer diabetes, high blood pressure or spinal cord damage. The distress and frustration it causes deserve compassion and understanding. If Viagra works — and the evidence that it does is still largely unscientific — it will bring great pleasure. Pharmacologically, it is a quite a leap up the evolutionary scale from Serge Voronoff's monkey glands. It is more agreeable to administer than a penile injection, less embarrassing to use than an inflating pump, and ecologically sounder than triturated tiger's testicle or ground rhino's horn.

Nevertheless, the cost of prescribing Viagra would lead to at least £1 billion on to the annual drugs bill of the already overburdened NHS. Paying this would probably mean diverting much-needed funds from those who suffer less publicised or less "glamorous" illnesses. Health care treating the elderly or the chronically unstable are already strapped for cash. They cannot afford to tighten their belts any further. Psychologists also worry that some patients, by using Viagra, might avoid confronting the deeper psychiatric causes of their impotence. Lawyers are wary of future litigation over "yes" and "no" side-effects. Surely, then, it would be better if the drug were available only on the open market. That stern old principle, *let the market decide*, might deter those who use the drug for recreational rather than health reasons.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, has already acted to dampen demand for the "miracle" drug. Patients wanting Viagra on prescription, he has said, will have to join waiting-lists. Doctors may attempt to prove impotence, as far as they are able, by some decidedly unpleasant-sounding procedures: "penile duplex ultrasonography", "intracavernosal injection of a vasoactive drug", to mention but two. But will this deter those in search of added spice? Behind every bar-room boast of virility lurks a fear that a pal might be enjoying sex even more. For every senior citizen who returns from the clinic declaring himself a Casanova, another ten will be encouraged to try. It seems to me that it is no coincidence that the countries which have already licensed Viagra — Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Kuwait and Morocco — are among the world's most macho. And what about women who want to give it a try? Would it be sex discrimination to deny them?

The NHS cannot afford to fritter away its precious resources on fashion — at least not until the appetite for the drug begins to dwindle. It will in time. What goes up, comes down. But until then, those who want to experiment with Viagra should have to pay. Marriage is said to be the price that men pay for sex, while sex is the price that women pay for marriage. So in a contemporary world, where sex before marriage is the norm, is the price of a Viagra pill that much to ask of a man? I'm certainly prepared to fork out for those headache-inducing pills.

BIG GU

11 YEAR

IRANIAN VOI



BIG GUN MISFIRES

A minister without mandate in Scotland

The best preparation for ministerial life in new Labour now appears to be an apprenticeship in the boardroom rather than on the shopfloor...

Parliament's power to scrutinise the executive has already been strained by the centralisers in this Government. But even they must see the dangers in a situation where Scotland's MPs cannot hold the ministers responsible for industry and the environment to account...

TEN YEARS ON

Why Burma's junta needs to negotiate with Daw Suu Kyi

This Saturday is the emotive anniversary of the 1988 massacre of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators by Burmese troops. A decade on, another day enters the calendar of crisis...

Burma now has annual food shortages. The SPDC's more flexible element, led by the intelligence chief and "Secretary No 1", Khin Nyunt, had aimed in its dealings with the NLD to create a system of national, military-led "democracy" modelled on President Suharto's Indonesia...

IRANIAN VOICES

In Khomeini's cage, the canary has begun to sing

The persecution of journalists is almost never an indicator of political health. But in Iran, it is at least a sign of life. This week's guilty verdict against the Editor of Khaneh for "insulting Islamic sanctities" is less surprising than the nature of the "offence"...

Newspapers pored over every detail of the patently rigged trial that last month convicted Gholam Hussein Karbaschi, the hugely popular reforming Mayor of Tehran, on trumped-up corruption charges...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

M15 and freedom of expression

From the Executive Director of Article 19. Sir, David Shayler has threatened to expose alleged official wrongdoing and other information about the way in which a public institution works...

Moral influence of overseas bishops at Canterbury

From the Right Reverend Howell Davies and others. Sir, We write as clergy concerned for the work in the parishes of the Church of England. Privileged to have experience of growing churches, we see a connection between growth and biblical faithfulness...

From the Reverend Dr Paul Oestreicher. Sir, I am one with Virginia Bottomley (Leiter, July 31) in commending Westminster Abbey for honouring Trevor Huddleston, Oscar Romero and the martyrs of the 20th century...

entrusted to it, or further pursue its liberal path to becoming just another sect? Yours faithfully, WILLIAM E. BRIDGE, 175 Crofton Road, Orpington Kent BR6 5JB web@botten.demon.co.uk August 4.

From Mr Nigel Groom. Sir, Your headline today, "Ex-M15 spy fights extradition bid", indicates, once again, that it is time the media got the terminology right...

Frank Field's value to welfare policy

From the Reverend Gavin R. P. Ashenden. Sir, The loss of Frank Field to the Government (reports, July 30; article, July 31) may have been occasioned by an inevitable clash between his brief to think freely and the constraints laid on him by the Chancellor...

From Mr Francis Bennion. Sir, For two reasons, the nation should surely be grateful to Frank Field. First, he has demonstrated by his resignation that there are still people in politics who will put the service of principle ahead of their own wellbeing...

Appraisal of Moore. From Mr John Pittuck. Sir, I believe the recognition of Henry Moore's universal stature and international influence (leading article, July 28; article, Arts, same day) is equalled in Britain only by the painter, J. M. W. Turner...

Destruction of files

From Mr David Turner. Sir, Amid the latest flurry of self-serving public-relations guff from M15 (report, "Straw reveals secrets of M15's 500,000 files", July 30) comes confirmation of that organisation's archival scorched-earth policy...

Shooting at Hitler

From Mr Roderick Dryden. Sir, It occurred to me that Captain E. H. Bennet, who was proposed as Hitler's assassin (report, July 23; letters, July 27 and August 1), might be the same Harry Bennet to whom I gilded in the late 1930s...

School inspections

From the General Secretary of the Independent Schools Council. Sir, Your report today that independent schools are to be "subjected to government-style inspections" suggests that the agreement between the Government and the Independent Schools Council represents some form of capitulation...

Detained on board

From Mr G. P. Stewart. Sir, More than 20 years ago I complained about the attitude of crew on British airlines, saying that when I got on an aircraft I embark, I do not enlist. The driver is therefore not my captain, and I do not like the Kensington of the waitresses...

Job prospects

From Mrs Elisabeth Rennison. Sir, I expect that naive servants in all colonial territories carried personal references in one form or another (letter, July 31) to present to prospective employers...



ok

The Day of Brian Paragon

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE August 4: The Lord Haskel and the Lord Whitby were received by The Queen and took leave upon relinquishing their appointment as Lords in Waiting to Her Majesty.

Queen Mother when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Royal engagements The Queen will visit Kincaird Community Hospital, Stonehaven, at 3.00. Prince Edward will launch the Scottish Power's video promoting Outward Bound at the Glasgow Climbing Centre, Paisley Road West, at noon.

Women of the Year Lunch The Duchess of Kent will be the royal guest of honour at the Women of the Year Lunch and Assembly, in aid of NCH Action For Children, at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, October 12.

Birthdays today Professor Neil Armstrong, first man on the Moon, 68; Mr Billy Bingham, football manager, 67; Mr Michael Diamond, former director, Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery, 56; Professor H.G. Dickinson, botanist, 54; Professor Sir Michael Drury, former President, Royal College of General Practitioners, 72; Miss Barbara Flynn, actress, 50; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 92; Lord Hindlip, 58; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 61; Field Marshal Lord Inge, 63; Mr R.W. Jewson, chairman, Savills, 54; Sir Michael Kerry, QC, former Procurator-General and Treasury Solicitor, 75; Mr C.J. Kitching, secretary, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, 53; Mr Martin Lambie-Nairn, designer, 52; Sir Bert Millichip, former chairman, Foot & Paine, 84; Mr John Monks, General Secretary, TUC, 53; Mr Eric Nicol, group chief executive, United Biscuits (Holdings), 48; Mr Rodney Pannison, yachtman, 55; Mr K.P. Pearson, former Headmaster, George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, 57; Sir Eric Pountney, former chairman, Tarmac, 65; the Hon Miriam Rothschild, FRS, entomologist, 90; Sir Nicholas Scott, former MP, 65; Lord Serton of Garston, 83; Mr Peter Smith, senior partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers, 52; Miss Theodora Turner, former matron, St Thomas' Hospital, 91; Mr John Whitaker, showjumper, 43.

Baroness Sharp of Guildford The life barony conferred upon Mrs Margaret Lucy Sharp has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Sharp of Guildford, of Guildford in the County of Surrey.

Baron Norton of Louth The life barony conferred upon Professor Philip Norton has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Norton of Louth, of Louth in the County of Lincolnshire.

Baron Ahmed The life barony conferred upon Mr Nazir Ahmed has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Ahmed, of Rotherham in the County of South Yorkshire.

Baroness Richardson of Calow The life barony conferred upon the Rev Kathleen Margaret Richardson has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Richardson of Calow, of Calow in the County of Derbyshire.

University news Cambridge University St John's College Janet Marillyn Lees (BEng, MSc, PhD) has been elected to a Fellowship and appointed lecturer in engineering.



One of an expected 40,000 visitors is served at the Great British Beer Festival held at London Olympia this week. Bluebird bitter from Coniston Brewery, Cumbria, was judged best beer at the event run by the Campaign for Real Ale

Small grants yield big finds

SEED money from a small annual fund has produced remarkable archaeological results in a series of projects, including a survey in the Scottish islands and a search for Roman roads under Birmingham. While professional excavations may cost tens of thousands of pounds, some of the grants from the fund were as small as £350.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Count Johann von Struensee, physician and politician, Halle, Germany, 1737; John Wrottesley, 2nd Baron Wrottesley, astronomer, Stafford, 1798; Alexander Crankshaw, historian, Taunton, 1809; Edward John Eyre, explorer and Governor of Jamaica, Hornsea, Yorkshire, 1815; Guy de Maupassant, short story writer, Miramontail, France, 1850; Conrad Aiken, novelist and poet, Savannah, Georgia, 1891; Clara Bow, the "It" girl film star, Brooklyn, New York, 1906; John Huston, film director, Nevada, Missouri, 1906; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1966-67, Sydney, 1908.

Speaker's souvenirs go under hammer

THE legacy of a lifetime in politics will go under the hammer in a sale from the estate of Lord Tonypanny, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, on August 13th at Selly Park.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.D. Boisseau and Miss S.S. Wright The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nick Boisseau, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Stan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Wright, of Tattenhall, Cheshire.

Premium Bond winners

The following Premium Bond prizewinners were announced yesterday: £100,000: LNW 325725, winner has a holding of £40 and comes from Berkshire 225K 994100.

Cancer Research Campaign

A service of thanksgiving and celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the Cancer Research Campaign will be held in Derby Cathedral on Sunday, September 27, at 2.30.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS ASTARE - On July 25th to Elizabeth (née Mozurk) and Mark, a son (Julian William) their brother for Ben, Max and Emma.

DEATHS ALLIEN - Dick on August 2nd peacefully at home, aged 85. Much loved husband of Jane, father of Liz, Linda, Chris and Paul. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS DEWHAM - A Morgan died peacefully at home on Thursday July 30th 1998, of a heart attack, aged 82. He was a member of the Church of England. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS JORDAN - David Harold at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth on August 1st, aged 81. He was a member of the Church of England. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS MAXWELL - Charles August on August 4th, 1998 peacefully at home in Rodwick, aged 87. Son of C.B.E. aged 88 years of Arthur, Mrs. Darling husband of Mary (Gheppard), beloved father of David, Richard and James and proud grandfather of Kate, Toby, Clara, Victoria, James and Alexander. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS STARKEY - On August 3rd 1998, at home, aged 82. Starkey of Welwyn Garden City, aged 82 years. He was a member of the Church of England. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS USHER - peacefully on 31st July 1998, at home, aged 85. He was a member of the Church of England. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

DEATHS WINDMILL - Kenneth August suddenly on 1st August 1998, at home, aged 85. He was a member of the Church of England. Buried at St Andrew's Church, Bournemouth.

PERSONAL COLUMN advertisement with contact information and a large graphic of a person's face.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1998

NEWS

Saddam wants missile showdown

A new confrontation between Iraq and the West appeared inevitable when Richard Butler, the United Nations chief weapons inspector, cut short a mission to Baghdad after talks on Iraqi disarmament collapsed in acrimony.

He will report to the UN Security Council tomorrow which must then decide how to respond to President Saddam Hussein's latest challenge to the UN.

Top companies angered by programme

Nine large companies, including Ford, Airtours and Dixons, are demanding a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman of the BBC's Board of Governors, to discuss their grievances over Watchdog, the corporation's flagship consumer affairs programme.

Royal birthday

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her birthday in front of a crowd which grows larger as the anniversary grows more remarkable.

Harvest 'warriors'

Twelve people were being held by police in Devon after a group of "eco-warriors" attacked an experimental genetically-engineered maize crop.

The real Jennings

Diarmid Jennings, now 87, who left Britain nearly 60 years ago, was revealed as the real-life hero of the Jennings stories, decades after the schoolboy character was created.

Factory rescue bid

Intel, the giant US computer chip company, is in talks to save Hyundai's abandoned £2 billion semiconductor factory which borders Gordon Brown's Dunfermline constituency.

Dounreay bomb row

Margaret Beckett, in her final days as President of the Board of Trade, has admitted that nuclear material produced at the Dounreay research facility has been used to make bombs.

Sex assault jailing

A businessman known for his charitable fundraising was put on the national register of sex offenders and jailed for two months for indecently assaulting a 16-year-old waitress during a New Year's Eve party.

Road congestion

Radical plans to ease congestion on the roads, including an extension of variable speed limits and high-tech traffic monitors, were announced.

Ecstasy death

A teenage fitness instructor died in hospital three days after taking Ecstasy at a friend's birthday celebration.

The boring truth about Planet Earth

There is nothing special about our corner of the universe, astronomers have discovered. This deflating conclusion, based on images taken by the Hubble space telescope, destroys any belief that humans have a special place in the cosmos.



A plane drops water on the forest fires raging northeast of Athens before gale-force winds grounded firefighting aircraft

BUSINESS

Banking: Natwest shares jumped

Natwest shares jumped more than 10 per cent after the bank confounded its critics by unveiling a 49 per cent rise in first-half profits.

SPORT

Football: The England coach

The England coach Clive Hodgson has omitted Paul Gascoigne from his squad of 29 players who will meet next week to begin England's preparations for the 2000 European championships.

Private pair: Once a model, now a

writer and chatelaine of a country home, Barbara Nell seems to have it all. But what of her private demons?

Simon Jenkins

Any fool could see the "weakness amid strength" of the Western stance last February. Saddam, an unpleasant tyrant, has been allowed to thumb his nose at the most devastating armies on Earth.

Liberty: Denis Cassidy, the former

Boddingtons and British Home Stores chief, has won his claim against Liberty, the department store group that refused to pay him off after ousting him as chairman last December.

Cricket: Extra police will be on

duty in Leeds to guard against crowd trouble when the fifth and deciding Test match against South Africa starts at Headingley tomorrow.

Young victims: Girls are being

drawn into prostitution while they are at home.

Ten years on

The Burmese junta is stuck. Burma is in such a tense, parlous state that repression is no longer a realistic option.

Microchips: Intel, the microchip

giant, may rescue the plant in Fife left deserted by Hyundai, the South Korean group.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 73.6

points to 5736.1. Sterling rose from 103.9 to 104.3; rising from \$1.6249 to \$1.6331 and from DM2.8993 to DM2.9123.

Simply dazzling: For his new show

at the Coliseum the ever-dynamic dancer and choreographer Wayne Sleep has concocted a programme that is camp and classical, stacy and sentimental.

Buzzing buildings: Regeneration is

the buzzword among planners and community groups as derelict areas get a makeover.

Time-share warning: A new EU

directive may cover timeshare purchases - but it depends on the country.

Can Bruce Willis

save the planet in Armageddon? Geoff Brown reports

Prophet or profiteer?

Anthony Storr looks at the life and legacy of Kahlil Gibran

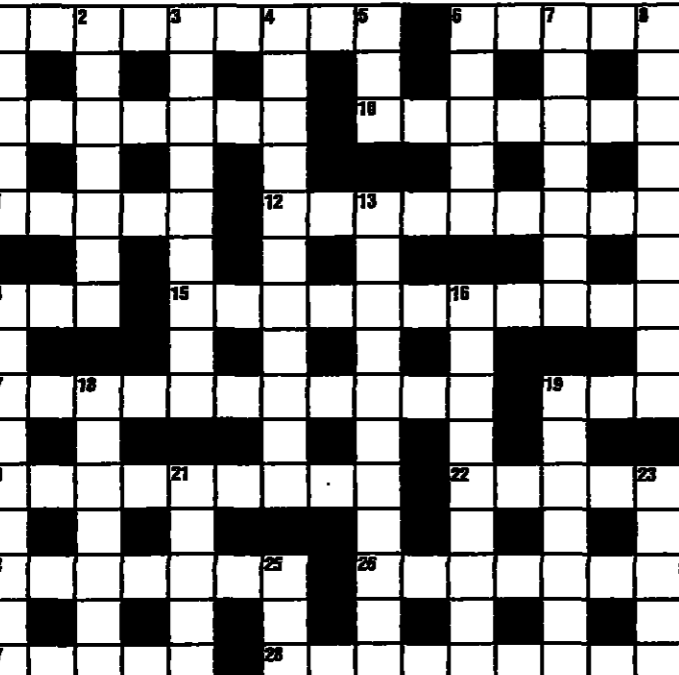
Carion David Strangeways, soldier

and clergyman; Raymond Lucas, Oxford German scholar; Professor Richard Hisecks, political scientist.

MIS and freedom of expression;

destruction of MIS files; moral influence on Lambeth Conference; Frank Field resignation; Hitler assassination plot; appraisal of Henry Moore; independent schools' inspections; airline staff; servants' references.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,862



Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with road conditions and weather forecasts for various regions like London, Midlands, and the South.

Weather by Fax

Table providing weather forecasts for different parts of the country via fax.

World City Weather

Table showing weather conditions for various world cities.

Motoring

Table listing motoring-related information and company reports.

FORECAST

General forecast for the day, mentioning sun, rain, and temperatures across the UK.

Table with weather data for various cities, including temperature, sun, rain, and wind.

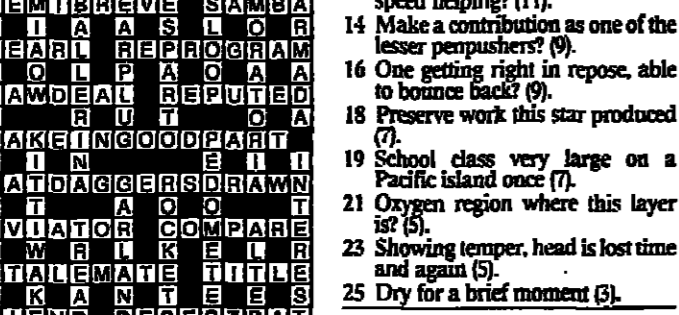


Changes to chart below from noon: High A expected to move northeast, but likely to decline in pressure. Low M moves very little, expected to fill. Low P moves northeast and fills.

ACROSS

- 1 Disputatious European introducing late claim (9)
6 Actor's last words may be heard in this line (5)
9 Gallery about to be put back in museum (7)
10 Disreputable lady to sing musical work (7)
11 Character of Athens that some-how expedites the ultimate in Greece (5)
12 Hay spread round wild garden shrub (9)
14 Share in decision to declare (3)
15 One in business employed to look after the branches (4,7)
17 People considered old-fashioned endorse book (4,7)
19 Commercial latching on to female craze (3)
20 Working partnerships so right to intervene in wrong action (9)
22 Slow movement made by old ship on lake (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 20861



HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for the current date.

Full moon August 8

Table with moon phase and astronomical data for August 8th.

ABROAD

Table with international news snippets and headlines from various countries.

Advertisement for 'Cats & Dogs' pet shops, featuring a large logo and contact information.

Advertisement for 'SCOOT' pet shops, featuring a logo, contact number (0800 192192), and website (www.scoot.co.uk).

National Savings criticised

By Jason Nisse

NATIONAL SAVINGS, the Government body, has spent more than £500,000 investigating accounting errors that amount to just £800,000, it emerged yesterday.

BP chief predicts slow progress for oil price

By Robert Cole

SIR JOHN BROWNE, chief executive of British Petroleum, yesterday held out only scant hope that there would be a sustained rise in the price of oil in the foreseeable future.

oil knocked BP's second-quarter profits, but the decline did not stop the company from raising its dividend.



Tempus, page 24 Sir John Browne pointed to three factors depressing the oil price

Recovery for big four pensions

By Richard Miles

BRITAIN'S big four pension managers staged a recovery in the second quarter of 1998 after languishing at the bottom of the performance tables for more than a year.

Salomon charges weaken Adidas

ADIDAS-SALOMON showed a net loss in the first six months after deducting charges arising from the acquisition of Salomon. Yesterday the sports goods company said that in the full year earnings per share would not increase and that the crisis in Asia would have a negative effect.

More Croda job cuts

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals manufacturer, gave warning yesterday that the strength of sterling had wiped £2.7 million from its first-half profits and would lead to further redundancies in the remainder of the year.

Digital TV venture

BRITISH TELECOM, BSkyB, Midland Bank and Matsushita yesterday completed their joint venture, British Interactive Broadcasting, after successful negotiations with the European Commission.

LucasVarity warning

LUCASVARITY gave warning yesterday that the strike at General Motors, one of its largest customers, will reduce operating profits by £11 million in the second quarter of the year.

Skillsgroup disposal

SKILLSGROUP, the information technology company, has sold PSL, its Unix distribution business, to Apax Partners and the PSL management team for £16 million.

Select up to £22.6m

SELECT APPOINTMENTS, the recruitment group, has continued a three-year run of 30 per cent organic growth, helped by ignoring large-volume contracts to concentrate on higher-margin business.

Seet buys Glory Years

SEET, the clothing and footwear group, has acquired Glory Years and Superleague Sports for £140,000 in cash and shares. Seet shares slipped from 294p to 284p.

Linden builds profits

LINDEN, the regional housebuilder, raised pre-tax profits from £1.36 million to £3.86 million in the half year to June 30 on sales up 63 per cent to £33 million.

Monsanto queried

A BOARD director of BASF, the German chemicals group, has questioned the multi-billion dollar investments in seed companies by Monsanto, the agro-chemical giant.

Delays hit Fortune

FORTUNE OIL said that group aggregate profits for its first half, to June 30, will be below the company's estimates prior to delays in several infrastructure projects.

SIEMENS

Advertisement for Siemens PCs featuring 'Number 3 in Europe', '3 Year Warranty', and prices like £585.00 and £687.77.

3 good reasons to buy

Our philosophy to build desktop PCs to the highest German engineering standards has made us the third largest supplier in Europe, which is why we want you to share in our success with some of our lowest priced business PCs ever.



3 worry free years

Our German engineered build quality is quite simply second to none. By paying close attention to the kind of manufacturing detail that other PC vendors seem to ignore, we are able to offer a full 3 year warranty on all our desktops (first year on-site) with total confidence.



3 very special offers

Our SCENIC Edition D6c, with Intel Celeron Processor 266MHz, with 16MB SDRAM, 2.1Gb Hard Disk, 3.5" 1.44Mb, 2Mb ATI VT4 Graphics, Keyboard, Mouse, 15" Monitor and MS Windows '95 (upgradeable to Windows '98 for just £20 plus VAT), is available from our resellers for the blisteringly low price of just £585 plus VAT.

For full pricing and specification details or to take advantage of these incredibly low offers, please call your local PC dealer or for further information on participating dealers, call...

Freephone 0800 125555

Siemens Enterprise & Personal Computing Pyramid House, Solartron Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7QL. www.spc-opc.co.uk User Centred Computing

Table with 4 columns: Bank, Buy, Sell, Bank, Buy, Sell. Lists various banks and their exchange rates.

مركز الاموال

26 UNIT TRUST PRICES

Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, organized in columns with headers for fund names and prices.

PARIS 133 2 nights. Prices are lowest available and based upon 2 sharing. For reservations phone Monday to Friday 09.00 to 18.00 hrs. ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. http://www.citytraveller.com 0171-565 6677 CITYTRAVELLER DIRECT LTD

Source: FT Information. *Yield depends on CD (Compound Annual Growth Rate). **Yield depends on MRR (Monthly Return Rate). ***Yield depends on MRR (Monthly Return Rate).

مركز ابحاث

Shares shaken by Wall Street

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
BANKS					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
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112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
CONSTRUCTION					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
DISTRIBUTORS					
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES					
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
PRINTING & PAPER					
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PROPERTY					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5

1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
TRANSPORT					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
WATER					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5

1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
RETAILERS, FOOD					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5

1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
112.00	111.00	Asahi Breweries	111.50	-0.5	12.5

1998 High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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Old bui

ARTS

No way to treat an audience, either

What an odd evening. Douglas J. Cohen has assembled a classy cast for his musical adaptation of the movie that, back in 1968, brought Rod Steiger and Lee Remick to the screen as (respectively) a serial killer and a putative victim. Donna McKechie, who won a Tony for the main role in *A Chorus Line*, has jetted in from New York...

THEATRE

The musical turns to Bown's Mo Brummell and Riding's Sarah Stone, even crediting songs. Since when did the New York Police Department let so serenely unsuccessful a detective continue to head a big case? Until the end, Mo makes only one deduction, which is that his girlfriend-to-be's walls have been vandalised; and that is wrong, because he is looking at her post arrests. And where would as smart, cultured woman as Sarah fall instantly in love with this ramshackle dune, explaining in song that when he looked into her eyes he saw right to her soul?



Wasted talents: Tim Flavin, Paul Bown and Joanna Riding make the best of Douglas J. Cohen's adaptation

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher. LONDON: 4HERO: The jungle music pioneers headline their first UK gig backed by a whopping great cast of 24. The band showcase songs from their acclaimed debut album, Two Pages, with support from the Reinforced D.A. Stonebury Theatre, WC1 (0171-262 6522), Tonight, 8pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS: Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre's showing in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices. CLOSER THAN EVER: The actress Richard Maltby/David Shaw musical, set in a New York subway station. Cast includes Helen Hobson and Beverley Klein. Jersey Street, SW1 (0171-267 2876).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies. NEW RELEASES: DOCTOR DOLITTLE (PG): Doctor Eddie Murphy finds a new lease of life talking to the animals. Fudge family comedy, a long way from Hugh Hefner's stories. Director, Betty Thomas.

Ran DMC might have reached a whole new audience with the chart-topping Jason Nevins remix of *Its Like That*, but their history stretches way back. Formed in New York in 1982 by Joseph "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, they are old school rappers who — along with their former Def Jam label mates the Beastie Boys and Public Enemy — were the first to fuse rap with rock music.

Old skool rappers. through many of the band's best-known songs, with *Coh Walk Gonna Do?* in particular unifying the crowd into one big party rap. The second half revealed the calmer side of Run DMC — significantly, Simmons and McDaniels had now swapped their black T-shirts for white ones. Among big hits like *Walk This Way* and *Peter Piper* were calls to God, and at the end of the set, Jan Master Jay's young son was led on stage to deliver a short rap, which elicited a strange mixture of coos and aahs from the post-midnight dance crowd.

Blank verse. on Sexsmith, it seems like no longer the best-kept secret in town. This was the Canadian singer-songwriter's third visit to Dublin in a year, and this time he has graduated to the 1,000-capacity Olympia, the grand old Dame Street theatre. Talent will out.

self-effacing humour shows he has no truck with the precious poet pose struck by so many songwriters. He also knows how to vary a set. The odd blues-rock stomp injects pace when needed and there are even echoes of Neil Young's power chords during *Nothing Good*, when Sexsmith lets rip on his reverb-heavy electric guitar.

ART GALLERIES: SUMMER EXHIBITION: Modern British & New Work from Today. Michael Parke Gallery, 11 Malcolm St. SW1 2SS 0144. DANCE: COLLEEN 071 632 8000. EAR 7.30. INTO THE WOODS 7.30. WAYNE SLEEP IN DASH.

THEATRES: ANELLO LABRITA 071 462 4444. DOCTOR DOLITTLE. THE REAL INSPECTOR GONDWIFF. PHILIP SCHIFFOLD. SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY. AN INSPECTOR CALLS.

THEATRICAL THEATRE: THE REAL INSPECTOR GONDWIFF. PHILIP SCHIFFOLD. SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY. AN INSPECTOR CALLS.

NATIONAL THEATRE 0171 432 2000. LONDON PHILADELPHIA 071 494 2000. SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER. WEST END MUSIC MANSION. FRODO BAGGINS.

PALACE THEATRE 0171 434 9800. LES MISERABLES. THE MOUSSETRAP. THE MOUNTAIN MAN.

DEMONS 0171 434 9800. THE WIDOWED WIVES CLUB. THE BRUNNEN. THE MOUNTAIN MAN.

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THEATRE COMPANY: THE REAL INSPECTOR GONDWIFF. PHILIP SCHIFFOLD. SHAKESPEARE'S COMPANY. AN INSPECTOR CALLS.

Mariko Mori. 30 June - 9 August. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2.

Settings Directory. A directory of various services and businesses, including a call for help from SSAFA.

Old buildings are buzzing

Rachel Kelly reveals how new life is being brought to areas once written off

Regeneration chic is a new buzz phrase among developers, planners and government...

It is also about the 4.4 million houses expected to be needed in the next 20 years...

As Lord Rogers of Riverside, the chairman of the Urban Task Force charged by the Government to spearhead regeneration, says: "The debate over where we should live seems to have been dominated by two negative themes: the dual fears of tearing up green fields or recreating Victorian slums."

The task force is to press for a planning policy guidance note designed to promote urban regeneration...

The task force is to press for a planning policy guidance note designed to promote urban regeneration...

Two new projects typify the best of urban regeneration: the Cornish Place development in Sheffield and the Colville Project in West London.



Cornish Place, Sheffield: once a cutlery factory, the Grade II building will be transformed into homes and work units

original Sheffield cutlery works in the city centre on the banks of the Don is to be transformed by Gleeson Homes and English Partnerships, the government quango set up to try to boost regeneration. The scheme features some of the best practice now associated with urban regeneration: the re-use of an existing building, its proximity to public transport and a mixed-use scheme, with residential and commercial development.

The 2.3 acres of derelict Grade II listed buildings with the adjacent Brooklyn Works will cost £7 million to transform. English Partnerships has made a grant of £2.6 million. There will be a mixed-use development, close to the Supertram rapid transport system and to Sheffield's two universities and teaching hospitals.

Constructed around 1820, the buildings circle a central courtyard and have been vacant for a decade. There will be 101 homes and 12 work units, a pub, commercial

space, retail space and a gym, now almost de rigueur in new developments. Prices will range from £38,000 for a two-bedroom cottage to £80,000 for a 1,500 sq ft loft flat. The interiors will be modern Minimalist, with bold colours such as cobalt blue or yellow, and some flats will have loft-high ceilings. Old machinery will be restored and retained in the homes to enhance their industrial appeal.

Clive Wilding, the managing director of Gleeson Homes, says: "There are very few residential properties in the area and retailers have left because of an out-of-town shopping centre. Prices will reflect the need to encourage homebuyers."

Paul Barber, from English Partnerships, hopes that the scheme will kick-start further investment in the area. "We are committed to putting life back into the city centre, 24 hours a day," he says. "That means the concept of people

living and working in the area, which makes good sense for a modern way of life."

The Victorian houses in Colville Terrace, Notting Hill, West London, were once a blackspot for crime. Drugs and prostitution thrived in the shadows of Colville Gardens and Powis Square. Now the houses are freshly painted white, cream and yellow, the outward sign of the urban regeneration aimed at tackling not just architecture, but deprivation, drugs, lack of training and the unemployment of ethnic minority groups.

Penny Sychava, from the Notting Hill Housing Trust, which donated £2 million to the scheme and owns 70 per cent of the houses in the area, considers that success stemmed partly from involving local people. She says: "We needed to make sure that they had a say in getting rid of the antisocial aspects of the area."

was set up to oversee the proceedings and consisted of homeowners and tenants from different economic backgrounds. Branka Zisa, a Notting Hill Housing Trust tenant, says: "We had a duty to do our best with the help of government money. I went to most of the planning meetings — up to three a week."

Renovation of the buildings was the first stage of the venture. The houses were used as family homes for only 20 years after they were built in the 1850s, were then converted to flats, and by the 1960s they were presided over by the corrupt landlord Peter Ruckman. The houses first had to be made structurally safe before they could be properly insulated, soundproofed and made more secure.

Fiona Austin, 33, a digital media consultant, has lived in the North Kensington area for 11 years. She felt strongly that the replanted green spaces — Powis Square and Colville Gardens — should not mirror

garden squares in South Kensington. She explains: "I was apprehensive that they would become like South Kensington — ornamental and soulless." She raised the issue at the Colville Area Council meeting and, as a result, the gardens have been designed with children in mind. The replanting has certainly encouraged the residents to interact far more than they once did. Many became involved in an adopt-a-tree scheme, and numerous balconies have been brought to life through a best-window-box competition.

Miss Austin says that the problem with many regeneration schemes is that funds are spent by those who have little knowledge of the area. Involving locals has led to the revival of a long-dead community spirit and Miss Austin has enjoyed getting to know the people in the area, who had previously kept themselves to themselves.

Another big benefit is that street crime has fallen by 30 per cent.

The residents' information centre is open daily — it helps to solve problems and give advice, and it discusses new ideas with residents. The other focal point is The Tabernacle, a converted red-brick Baptist church, which is now the arts and sports centre. Activities include basketball, football, dance, music and yoga.

Alan Cherry, chairman of the Housebuilders' Federation housing policy committee, says: "The days when people looked down on living next to social housing are gone. You can cater for all types of people by providing homes that are properly designed and managed."

Where new homes are being built, the fashionable term is mixed-use developments, such as those at Garston in Liverpool and the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.

David Lums, the chief executive of the Urban Villages Forum, says: "If we are to make urban renaissance a fact, we need plenty of real examples of making it happen."

Additional research: Zara Bishop

Read the paperwork

Jackie Williams on the EU rules that protect timeshare buyers

Despite the growing maturity of the timeshare industry and the arrival of firms such as Thomas Cook that are selling timeshares for the first time this year, buying is still full of pitfalls.

Spain, the focus for most timeshare investors, and some other countries have not signed the EU Timeshare Directive of April 1997 protecting buyers from losing their deposits.

If buyers negotiate their deals through the UK, however, they will be protected by the directive, which means that British buyers are one of the few countries that signed it. Then, buyers can cancel any loans automatically if they change their minds.

The directive was introduced to stop timeshare firms trying to pressure buyers to complete by refusing to return their deposits. It makes it illegal for any money to change hands for at least ten days after an initial agreement (14 in the case of the UK), and forces companies to give legal notice of the right to cancel and any other information, in the buyer's language.

But even if Spain does sign, those who negotiate to resell their apartments through Spanish registered companies will still not be protected by the new rules. This includes the many who have negotiated through companies such as Travel World, a Spanish re-sales company in Málaga operating through James Hutchinson Holiday Reports (JHHR), after mistaking its nearby identical orange-circle logo letterhead for that of the British Timeshare Council.

Buyers in Spain have confused the Timeshare Council SL, a Spanish registered company, also set up through the JHHR, with the UK-based Timeshare Council, an independent body set up by owners to monitor codes of practice. The two names are identical apart from the added letters SL, and a double line under the "C" of "Council". Again, the identical UK logo appears.

On October 21 last year, the Spanish firm gave this warning on the Internet: "1997 legislation scheduled November being enacted now. Do not get caught out."

British buyers flocked to register with it, convinced they would be protected if they did not, not realising that the firm was a company set up for the purpose and unrelated to the UK organisation.

When I phoned the company, which has an office in Benalmádena and numerous post office box numbers throughout the Costa del Sol, a voice replied that it was not prepared to answer any questions. The British Timeshare Council was more obliging and offered free information on everything happening in Europe. It says that it has been misled with inquiries since the Spanish firm appeared.

Mr Hutchinson has since made a statement declaring that his company is a registered company in Spain and legally allowed to trade there, whereas the British Timeshare Council is not registered in Spain.

Although Spain is not alone as a defaulter to the directive — Italy, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg and Finland have also not adopted it, while France is still arguing — many Britons have bought timeshares on the Spanish mainland as well as in the Balearics and Canaries.

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Advertisement for ARLA Association of Residential Letting Agents, listing regional branches and services.

Advertisement for DUNCAN ALLEN, Residential Sales & Letting Agents, listing properties in Dulwich and Highgate.

Advertisement for GOLDFINCH, Goldfinch (Projects) Limited, offering property services in the Goldfinch area.

Advertisement for DUNNIBER, listing properties in Dulwich and Highgate.

Advertisement for PARK CRESCENT MEWS EAST, listing a new development of four new houses.

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USA... 1800 sq ft, 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 apps, 2000 sq ft

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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured and difficult to read.

RUGBY UNION

RFU feels force of Celtic fire over Europe

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE murky world of rugby politics, had enough on a purely English stage, is being replicated with regard to European competition.

The IRFU is greatly perturbed and concerned that the RFU has acted in such a manner without informing its fellow unions of its intentions.

Coventry has been acquired by a six-strong consortium of local businessmen and enthusiasts, led by Keith Fairbrother.

the other home unions and France its perception of the way ahead, hedged round with acknowledgements that nothing could be achieved without the goodwill of all governing bodies.

England's clubs have been told that any amendment to the domestic programme — such as the institution of a seven-club conference system — must be done with the consent of all 28 clubs involved in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Subject to the views of the other unions, the RFU is of the view that, if there is to be a competition involving English clubs, to which it has no objection in principle, then it

should be a genuine European competition. Brian Baister, the chairman of the RFU management board, wrote: "The RFU wishes to move forward in partnership with its clubs and believes that European participation is essential, but not at the expense of the destabilisation of the game in the northern hemisphere."

Thus for John Jeffrey, the former Scotland flanker and one of his country's two directors on the board of European Rugby Cup Limited (ERC), to suggest that the RFU seeks to exclude the Celtic nations from competition is ludicrous.

Murphy, too, required unconditional support by the RFU of the European Rugby Cup and Conference, whose immediate future hinges on the support of the French clubs, who have won two out of three Heineken Cups and dominated utterly the second-string competition.

After a reasonably successful British grand prix in Sheffield on Sunday and a haul of four gold medals at the world junior championships last week, Great Britain now looks to the main challenge of the summer. In the European championships in Budapest this month, the seniors will want to at least match, and perhaps double, the strike rate achieved by the juniors.



Edwards has been in magnificent form and must be one of Britain's best gold medal prospects in Budapest

Jones views a golden horizon

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IF THERE is one thing that British athletics has become expert at, it is the art of surviving a controversy. As the dust settles on the sport going bankrupt and the Roger Black affair, the green shoots of recovery are pushing through.

After a reasonably successful British grand prix in Sheffield on Sunday and a haul of four gold medals at the world junior championships last week, Great Britain now looks to the main challenge of the summer. In the European championships in Budapest this month, the seniors will want to at least match, and perhaps double, the strike rate achieved by the juniors.

the England football team this summer when he looked ahead to Budapest. There have been a lot of glorious British failures; perhaps British athletes can provide some glorious successes," he said. Edwards, surely, cannot fail.

Unbeaten this season, he is seeking his twelfth successive triple jump victory tonight. When Max Jones, the Britain performance director, announced the team for Budapest, his war cry went almost unheard beneath the din surrounding Black's omission.

There are nine events, possibly ten, in which we have good chances of gold medals," Jones said. Four competitors compete in Stockholm: Edwards, Solomon Wariso, in the 400 metres, Steve Backley, in the javelin, and Paula Radcliffe, who is preparing for the 10,000 metres in Budapest with a 5,000 metres.

his first 400 metres since being selected ahead of Black. His opposition includes Tyrone Washington and Jerome Young, two of the United States quartet that set a 4 x 400 metres world record last month, and Alvin Harrison, winner of the grand prix in Paris last week.

While Black's omission stirred up a hornet's nest, Wariso was the innocent party. He had, after all, improved his best by more than a second to beat Black in the trial and eyes will be on him tonight to see whether he can go faster still than 44.68sec.

In defending Wariso's selection, Jones said he was "an awesome talent" the guy could win in Budapest. "Black, not wishing the controversy to weigh heavily on Wariso, said in Sheffield: "Solomon could win the Europeans."

runaway winner of the 3,000 metres in Sain 38.84sec, three seconds outside her best. In a more competitive field this evening, she will be looking to run close to her British record of 4:41min 45.51sec.

While Backley has been throwing consistently, a new threat to his eight-year reign as European champion has emerged. Aki Parviainen, from Finland, had his career interrupted by injuries, but this season he leads the rankings. Parviainen meets Backley tonight.

In Malmö on Monday, Diane Modahl guaranteed her place at the European championships when she ran an 800 metres qualifying time, finishing second in 2:01.07sec, to Malin Everloff, of Sweden. Modahl will be seeking to maintain her momentum tonight in a race designed to be fast. Maria Mutola, from Mozambique, is aiming for the world record.

Surrey achieve first double

■ BOWLS: Surrey, who won the six-rink Johns Trophy on Monday, became the third successive county to do the double when they defeated Huntingdonshire 42-33 in the final of the national inter-county two-rink championship at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday and lifted the Walker Cup (David Rhys Jones writes).

SPORT IN BRIEF

that Surrey had managed to win both titles in the same season. ■ TENNIS: Hicham Arazi, of Morocco, was disqualified from the ATP clay-court tournament in Amsterdam yesterday for unsportsmanlike conduct in his first-round match against Magnus Norman, of Sweden. Having won the

first set 7-6, Arazi received his third warning when trailing 5-1 in the second set. He had already been warned twice for throwing his racket.

■ CYCLING: Spanish cyclist's are to boycott the women's Tour de France, which will be held from August 11 to 20, in protest at the events surrounding the drug-tainted men's race. ■ GOLF: Darren Clarke has climbed from fourth to second on the European money list after finishing runner-up in the Scandinavian Masters.

Henley supports the juniors

BRITISH junior rowing received a boost yesterday when the Henley Royal Regatta Stewards agreed to back "Project Oarsome" to the tune of £190,000 over the next four years (Mike Roswell writes). Project Oarsome is a nationwide scheme that aims to introduce rowing to schools and communities that have not been involved in the sport before and hopes to establish rowing sections in up to 50 clubs by 2001. The project has been submitted to the National Lottery for funding and money from the Stewards' Charitable Trust will be used

ROWING

for grants to help cover the cost of boats, oars and ergometers required to develop junior rowing in local areas. The statement released yesterday by Henley said: "The stewards applaud this initiative and are very pleased to be able to offer this support." The news will be particularly pleasing for, among others, Mark Banks, the Great Britain chief junior coach, who will be hoping to reap the benefit of such investment in the future. Banks is leading a seven-boat Britain team at the world junior championships in Ottenstein, Austria, this

week. James Di Luzzo, the Britain junior sculler, who won a gold medal at the championships in a double scull in 1997, will take on 25 rivals in the largest field in the competition. The coxed four, stroked by Chris Martin, have just ten opponents, although all of them, bar Egypt, have impressive junior records. The No 1 women's boat, the coxed pair of Kathryn Stewart and Rebecca Romero, have nine opponents, while the double scull of Frances Houghton, in her third junior championship, and Debbie Flood is in a field of 17.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

Table with columns: Date, Company name, Venue, Adjusted Score. Lists results for various company golf days from June to July.

Advertisement for Citroën Golf, featuring the Citroën logo and text: "For event details you can either: 1. TELEPHONE 021 405 7273 2. FAXBACK ON 0690 600664 3. ACCESS THE GOLF TODAY INTERNET SITE ON www.golftoday.com".

Advertisement for X-Files magazine, featuring a large 'X' graphic and text: "DON'T MISS YOUR FREE X-FILES MAGAZINE.".

LEICESTER

THUNDERER 6.10 Dangerous Dancer, 6.40 Little Brave, 7.10 Task Force, 7.40 Indian Warrior, 8.10 Mannequin, 8.40 Ella Lamess.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

6.10 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,495; 5f 2yd) (10 runners)

1-4 DANIELLE'S LAD 9 B Palfrey 9-0 C Lumbard 3 1-5 DANIELLE'S LAD 9 B Palfrey 9-0 C Lumbard 3

7.10 COVENTRY CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,637; 1m 0yd) (15)

1-500 KOSMOS 4 (8) B Mactown 9-7 J Fortrose 5 0-51 TASH FIDES 20 P Throat 9-7 J Fortrose 5

7.40 WEATHERBYS TURF NEWSPAPERS MEDIA AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,994; 5f 21yd) (22)

1-1 ALHAGAD A Sinner 9-0 R Hills 9 1-2 ASHLEY W Haines 9-0 J Fortrose 5

8.10 HARBY CLASSIFIED STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,805; 1m 31yd) (5)

1-2000 SWEET 18 (2) W James 4-11 J Reid 4 1-2002 GENETIC 18 P Walsby 9-0 J Cochrane 2

8.40 SIX HILLS FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,183; 1m 0yd) (12)

1-0201 MADONNE 11 (9) M James 4-9-10 J Fortrose 11 1-0204 MARSHALL 6 G Hedges 3-9-10 M Hills 3

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hills, 6 winners from 41 runners; 19.5% M Prescott, 8 tops; 43.18% M James, 6 from 33; 18.7% P Walsby, 3 from 17; 17.9% H Cash, 6 from 33; 16.7% H Hill, 10 from 64; 15.9% W G M Tomes, 4 from 25; 14.2% J Fortrose, 5 from 35; 13.7% M Hills, 12 from 119; 11.4% J Reid, 1 from 9.

Large advertisement for 3Com products. Text includes: "You can't programme the VCR.", "You don't know how to work the microwave.", "Have we got the modem for you.", "FREEPHONE 0800 22 52 52", "ONLY £199".

Large advertisement for U.S. Robotics 3Com Professional Message Modem. Text includes: "U.S. Robotics", "3Com U.S. Robotics 56K Professional Message Modem", "The 3Com U.S. Robotics 56K Professional Message Modem couldn't be easier to operate but has all the features you'd expect from a top of the range modem.", "ONLY £199".

